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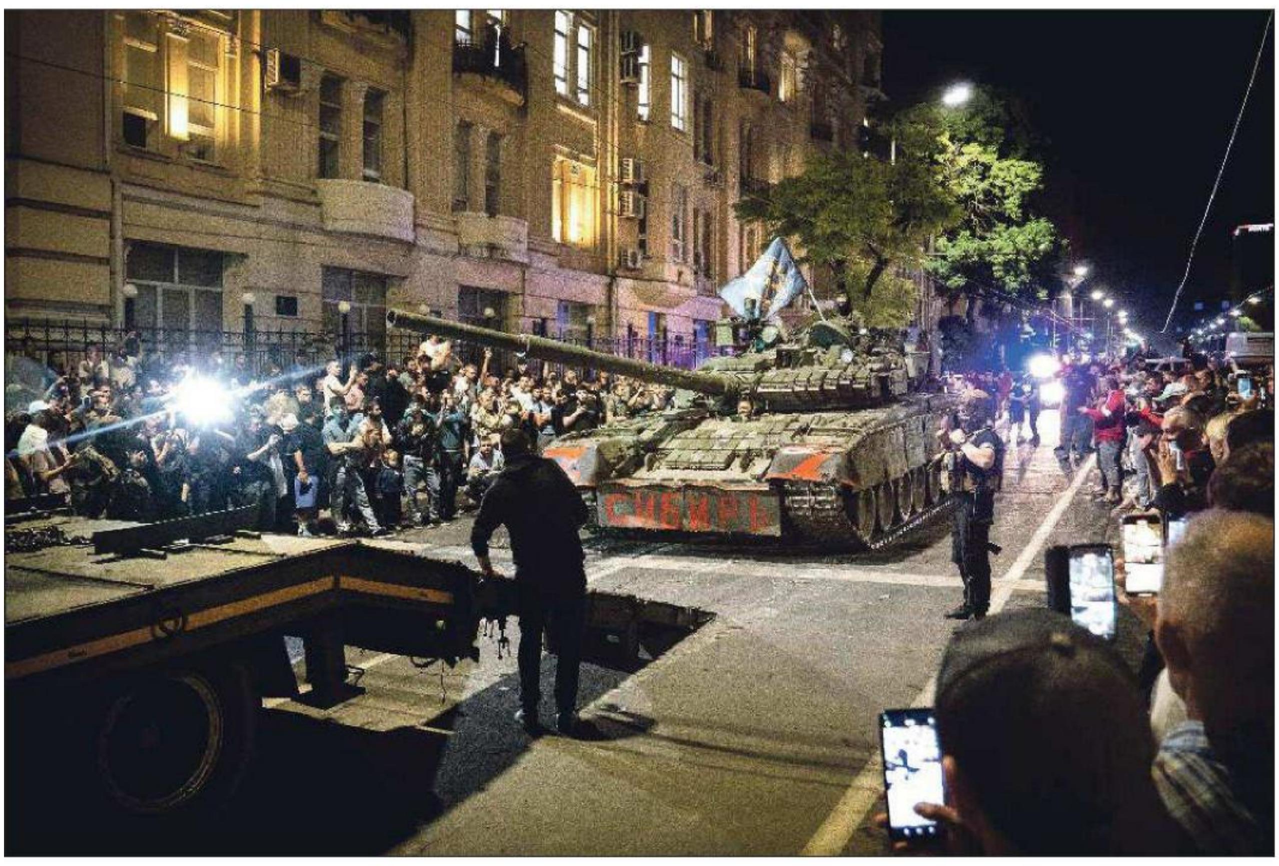

Roman Romokhov AFP/Getty Images

MEMBERS of the Wagner Group private army prepare to return to their base in Rostov-on-Don in southern Russia. Their leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, said his armored forces had advanced to within 125 miles of Moscow.

Mercenaries halt march to Moscow after Putin's threats

Wagner Group leader will go to Belarus. The uprising shakes the authority of the Russian president.

By Laura King
and Tracy Wilkinson

KYIV, Ukraine — A Russian mercenary army late Saturday abruptly halted its march on Moscow as President Vladimir Putin vowed to punish the rebellion's commanders in the most serious challenge to date of the Russian leader's more than 2-decade-old grip on power.

The seemingly short-lived insurrection against the Kremlin's military leaders shook Putin's authority like no other crisis in nearly a generation and threatened to alter the course of the war in Ukraine.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of the private army known as the Wagner Group, said his armored forces had advanced to within 125 miles of the Russian capital after seizing control of Russia's main rear logistical hub for its war in Ukraine, the military headquarters in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don.

"We turn our columns around, and depart in the opposite direction," Prigozhin said on the messaging app Telegram. His apparent stand-down — which he portrayed as a desire to avoid bloodshed — came hours after Putin, in an emergency address to the nation, called the uprising a "betrayal" and a "deadly threat" to the Russian state.

The deal to halt the movement of Wagner forces was brokered by Putin ally Alexander Lukashenko, president of Belarus, according to Lukashenko's office.

The Kremlin said that Prigozhin would move to Belarus, charges against him would be dropped and troops participating would not be prosecuted. Wagner fighters who did not take part in the insurrection will be offered contracts by the Defense Ministry, authorities in Moscow said.

[See **Russia,** A4]

Want high earnings? Focus on the major, not a college's prestige

Grads of accessible schools can outearn elite university peers

By Teresa Watanabe

Elijah Calderon, after a yearlong training program at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, is poised to earn about $105,000 annually as a power lineman. Once he becomes a journeyman in three to four years, he stands to make about $165,000 — and potentially much more with overtime.

He had to let go of his high school dream of attending a four-year university because of family finances. But his chosen field in the community college system will propel him to the top 5% of wage earners among recent California college graduates — outearning many who attended the most prestigious universities in the state and the nation.

A Stanford University student graduating with a bachelor's degree in political science makes a median annual income of $75,500 four years after graduation. A UC Berkeley sociology major earns about $64,000 at that four-year snapshot and a UCLA graduate in history, about $47,900, according to a new analysis of federal data by the HEA Group, a research and consulting agency focused on college access.

[See **College,** A12]

Irfan Khan Los Angeles Times

STUDENTS training to be power linemen hone their skills at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College in May.

Expats hopeful, wary of uprising

Immigrants in West Hollywood express mixed feelings as the Wagner Group halts its march to Moscow.

By Dorany Pineda
and Robert J. Lopez

In West Hollywood, home to one of the largest Russian-speaking communities in the United States, residents watched with hope and apprehension Saturday as a mercenary rebellion that threatened to upend the Russian government and undermine its invasion of Ukraine appeared to subside.

Some were buoyed by the news that Yevgeny Prigozhin, a wealthy Russian entrepreneur who owns the mercenary army known as the Wagner Group, announced that he was halting his march to Moscow.

Others, like Andrei Braginski, dismissed the armed rebellion as an insignificant development in Russia, where the war on Ukraine and its mounting casualties have become increasingly unpopular.

"They're rebels without support," said Braginski, 58, carrying a bag of groceries

[See **Expats,** A6]

Tying the knot on a shoestring budget

A wedding ceremony that costs less than an iPhone? More couples are opting for small, affordable nuptials.

By Marisa Gerber

As the couple sauntered down the aisle, an instrumental hip-hop version of the wedding classic Canon in D oozed from a boombox, and a small crowd, most of them perfect strangers, danced and cheered in celebration.

The bride wore a sundress and a veil she picked out moments earlier and the groom a black button-down with a fresh haircut from his family's salon down the street.

The ceremony itself took less than 10 minutes — affordable, memorable and intimate, exactly what Ana Soriano and Luis Moreno had wanted.

"It was just us," she told him moments after their nuptials. "You and me."

Soriano and Moreno, both in their early 30s, met on Myspace 13 years ago and got engaged at a cathedral in Italy a few months before the pandemic shutdowns. Moreno, a studio engineer, lost his income overnight, and wedding planning moved to the back burner.

The couple knew some relatives who had spent

[See **Weddings,** A14]

Brian van der Brug Los Angeles Times

A VIEW of the downtown Los Angeles skyline from the Cara Cara rooftop restaurant and bar.

CAN L.A.'S HIGH-RISE HUB FIND A WAY FORWARD?

The city's financial district, once the heart of downtown, struggles to bounce back from pandemic shutdowns, the homelessness crisis

By Roger Vincent

As the pandemic shut down office life in Los Angeles' downtown financial district, Claude Cognian tried to keep his gastropub Public School 213 open. But the evacuation of white-collar workers made way for an influx of homeless people and drug users — and more than a few troublemakers striding in the front door.

"It was hard to keep hostesses at the door, because they got scared," said Cognian, chief executive of the restaurant's parent company, Grill Concepts Inc.

Three break-ins cost as much as $12,000 each time just to repair the windows, all while the bottom line was cratering in the absence of the office employees who used to gather for lunch and after-work drinks. With sales down 75% from pre-pandemic days, his company closed the downtown gastropub in August and is not planning to return.

"Our bet was that downtown was going to come back, and it hasn't," Cognian said.

For decades the Los Angeles financial district was the beating heart of downtown, the corporate muscle that gave the city of sprawl a soaring glass skyline. But the pandemic and the wave of remote work hollowed out its skyscrapers and helped shut many restaurants and businesses that relied on crowds of workers. Though the neighborhood shows signs of recovery, few expect it to return to being the bustling hive of suits and ties that it was.

To many insiders — the urban

[See **Downtown,** A10]

A way to encourage 'good fire'?

A $20-million liability fund would cover damages in case a prescribed burn escapes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Trump cases a legal quandary

If he is reelected, his indictments will put matters of presidential privilege in uncharted territory. **NATION, A22**

The day a legend lighted the torch

Rafer Johnson's family recalls his climb to the Coliseum's top to open the 1984 Summer Olympics. **SPORTS, D1**

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Scientists should never 'debate' anti-vax quacks

Joe Rogan, RFK Jr. and other denialists use public forums to legitimize their views.

MICHAEL HILTZIK

Given that we live in a world in which almost everything, including presidential politics, takes on the trappings of cheap entertainment, it's no wonder that the purveyors of anti-vaccine and anti-science claptrap are demanding that legitimate experts validate their positions through the spectacle of public debates.

The experts are right to say no.

The most recent example of this demand erupted after webcaster Joe Rogan, an enthusiastic promoter of COVID-19 conspiracy-mongers, anti-vaxxers and other sources of pseudoscientific hogwash, hosted anti-vaxxer Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on his program for three hours.

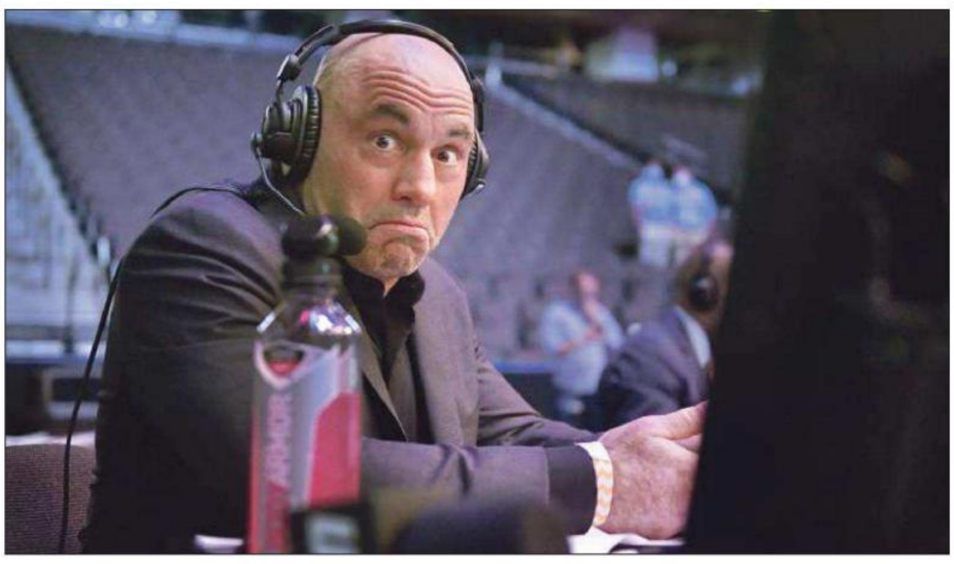
When vaccine expert Peter Hotez tweeted a link to a thorough critique of Kennedy's lies and misrepresentations by Vice.com, Rogan challenged Hotez to participate in a public debate with Kennedy.

Hotez refused, though he offered to engage Rogan — on whose show he had appeared before — one on one, a context in which Hotez was prepared to address Rogan's misconceptions serially. Rogan treated that offer as an evasion, which led to Hotez being accosted at his home by a stranger demanding that he take the bait.

There are many reasons why serious scientists should reject these invitations. One is that it gives liars and deceivers legitimacy. "You should never equate, morally or practically, true science and pseudoscience or quackery," says John P. Moore, professor of microbiology and immunology at Weill Cornell Medical College.

"By just appearing with these people, you give them a stature that implies they're equivalent, and they're not."

Moore's insights come from his experience with AIDS denialists including the notorious Peter Duesberg starting around 1999. An expert in HIV and AIDS, Moore was appalled at the decision by Thabo Mbeki, the president of South Africa, to deny antiretroviral drugs such as AZT to AIDS patients in favor of herbal nostrums.



DOUGLAS P. DEFELICE Getty Images

WEBCASTER Joe Rogan, above, hosted anti-vaxxer Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on his program for three hours and tried to get a vaccine expert to debate Kennedy.

Mbeki was motivated by scientific advisors who questioned that AIDS resulted from a virus; his policies have been blamed for more than 330,000 unnecessary deaths in his country.

The denialists "were always saying, 'come and debate with us,' " Moore told me. Serious virologists tried posting accurate information to combat the misconceptions, to little avail. "It was just a waste of time, because you were never going to persuade the hard core to change their position."

Another reason not to debate "gaslighters," as Science magazine editor Holden Thorp labels them, is that in many cases the debate is settled. The safety and efficacy of the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are well established after hundreds of millions of doses administered in the U.S. and billions worldwide.

Also well-established is the uselessness against COVID of drugs such as hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin, both of which have been promoted by Kennedy. No public debate could outweigh the reams of validated evidence for their ineffectiveness.

There's nothing new about the insistence of anti-vaxxers and other cranks and hucksters that public debates are all that's needed to establish the truth. Nor is there anything new about the thirst of newspapers, news programs and consumers of social media posts for spectacle and clickbait, facts be damned.

Scientists and experts who have accepted invitations to debate almost always find themselves overmatched. Often this is because scientists seldom have the training to make cogent presentations of their work in an adversarial setting; they're more comfortable staking out their positions through painstaking exposition in writing or before conferences with their peers.

"Common 'live public debate' formats favor science deniers because they are not bound by science or even the truth," observes the veteran pseudoscience debunker David Gorski. The deniers' arsenal includes "obscure studies, bad studies, studies that don't support their points, and even irrelevant information that superficially to nonexperts appears to support their arguments."

Such debates treat science as a sort of cabaret act, in which "glibness, rhetorical skill and the debater's charisma" register "far more than facts, logic, reason and science," Gorski says.

That's the problem with any debate staged for popular consumption, whether through television or social media — try to think of the last time that a presidential candidates debate yielded anything like hard information, as opposed to impressions of the participants' demeanor, gift of gab or ability to avoid a verbal stumble or gaffe.

When science is on the agenda, the peril is even greater. The contest is often between the nuances of scientific inquiry and the cocksure bluntness of pseudoscience.

"Scientists are rooted in the truth; it's what you're trained to do," Moore says. "You won't lie, you won't dissemble, you will often express yourself with caveats, acknowledging gray areas. They'll come back with what they say are hard facts: 'Vaccines kill,' or 'this athlete dropped dead because he was killed by a vaccine.' You can't deal with subtleties when you're having blatant lies thrown at you one after another."

Scientists are also trained to look at the totality of evidence when taking a position, Moore says. "The anti-vaxxers or denialists will cherry-pick factoids. Scientific literature is so vast and so mixed in quality that you can always find something that is going to support your position. We are trained as professionals to tune out the occasional outrider that is the product of incompetent or twisted science."

Even people skilled at communicating scientific principles to nonexperts have been lured into the debate trap. One is Neil DeGrasse Tyson, the most renowned science communicator in the world today. In April, Tyson allowed himself to be enticed into a webcast debate with anti-vaccine crusader Del Bigtree. He must have thought that his command of the art of public speaking would allow him to hold up his end.

He was wrong. Tyson's first mistake was to agree to appear on Bigtree's webcast, rather than in some neutral setting. But his main problem was that, as an astrophysicist, he simply did not have the knowledge to counter Bigtree's torrent of anti-vaccination propaganda. The result was a train wreck for legitimate science in which the anti-vax position prevailed, or such was the impression that was left.

The "debate me" agitators assert that research only gains from being subjected to inquiry. That's true, but it doesn't gain from being subjected to criticism from people unfamiliar with the underlying science and arguing from a position of ignorance.

Their goal is merely to sow doubt, for their own interests and often for political goals. The attacks on Hotez, on Anthony Fauci — one of Kennedy's targets — and on science in general have a clear partisan slant. Deniers of global warming and of the link between tobacco and cancer have been carrying water for the big businesses that profit from fossil fuels and cigarettes.

They've made common cause with anti-vaxxers because they see an opportunity to make political hay for Republican and conservative interests. (Never mind that the COVID-19 vaccines were developed during the Trump administration; even Trump has provided a platform for vaccine deniers.)

But the consequences of their campaigns can be measured in sickness and death. The anti-vaccine movement is complicit in the unnecessary deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. alone by discouraging people from getting the shot.

That may be the best reason for responsible scientists to reject invitations to debate. "The spread of vaccine disinformation has hurt a very, very large number of people in a very horrible way," Moore says.

"That's the moral dimension," he says. "You cannot forget what these people have done. I could no more sit down with RFK Jr. than I could sit down with a white supremacist and discuss eugenics. You should not give them the moral equivalence."

Hiltzik writes a blog on latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or on Twitter @hiltzikm or email michael.hiltzik @latimes.com.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Fixing floor under U.S.-China relations

DOYLE McMANUS

When Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken went to Beijing last week to try to repair the frayed relationship between the United States and China, both sides kept expectations low.

For months, the two superpowers have clashed over a wide range of issues: the alleged Chinese spy balloon that wandered across the United States in February, U.S. attempts to block China from advanced semiconductor technology, and military near-collisions at sea and in the air.

Both countries agreed they needed to stop the rivalry from spiraling into open conflict and "build a floor" under the relationship — which is exactly what President Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping said they had already done at a summit meeting eight months ago. That floor did not stay built — hence last week's call for a repairman.

By that modest standard, Blinken succeeded. The floor has been patched, but it's still pretty shaky.

The secretary of State asked for more frequent meetings, and he got that. But he also asked for direct exchanges between the two countries' military leaders, a priority he called "hugely important" — and the Chinese turned that down flat. And Xi deferred action on a request that should have been even easier: to curb Chinese-made chemicals that help produce the killer drug fentanyl.

> 'They think our version of competition is about America winning and China losing.'
>
> — BATES GILL, Asia Society expert on China

"It's good that they recognized that they need to talk when the relationship is veering into dangerous territory," said Bates Gill, a China expert at the Asia Society in New York. "But talking is still going to be very difficult."

The drive toward peaceful coexistence still looks accident-prone. Only a day after Blinken left Beijing, Biden touched off a brief furor when he told donors that Xi hadn't known about the alleged spy balloon, which he called "a great embarrassment for [a] dictator." A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson called the remark "absurd and irresponsible."

The underlying problem, deeper than any Biden gaffe, is that the countries don't merely have different goals; they view the world from different premises.

In Xi's view, China is rising toward its rightful role as Asia's dominant country and the world's leading economic power, while the United States is a nation in decline.

U.S. officials understandably don't buy that narrative. They correctly argue that China has bullied its smaller neighbors, stolen Western technology and engaged in unfair trade practices.

Even when they try to bridge those differences, the two governments often talk past each other.

When Biden entered the White House in 2021, his aides tried to come up with a useful, perhaps inoffensive framework for their approach to China. As Blinken put it: "We'll compete with confidence, cooperate when we can and confront when we must."

The Chinese hated it.

"They see 'competition' as meaning there's a winner and a loser," Gill said. "They think our version of competition is about America winning and China losing."

Beyond those differences, several major disagreements between the countries are probably insoluble in the foreseeable future.

China believes it has an inalienable right to take over Taiwan; the United States has long been committed to helping the independent island defend itself.

Xi's economic ambitions focus on making China a high-tech colossus; Biden believes U.S. security requires blocking Beijing from advanced semiconductor technology.

Now add the Biden administration's success in building alliances with other countries — including India, whose prime minister, Narendra Modi, was feted at the White House last week — and the European Union, even though it's China's biggest economic partner.

Xi's regime hasn't done as well at making friends. China's only real allies are Russia and North Korea.

All of these factors make it hard to find space for U.S.-Chinese cooperation, even when it should be relatively easy. For example, Blinken's request for military contacts to prevent accidental conflicts fell on deaf ears because the Chinese fear it's a trap.

"They don't want to approach the issue from the standpoint of international law, because that might give us the right to fly or sail where they don't want us," said Bonnie Glaser of the German Marshall Fund. "If it became safe for us to conduct these flights, they'd see that as a win for us."

The clearest outcome of Blinken's trip will be a visit to Washington by China's foreign minister, Qin Gang — and, with luck, a meeting between Biden and Xi in San Francisco this fall.

But their agenda will be a familiar one: reducing the chances of U.S.-China conflict by repairing the same shaky floorboards again and again.

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Palestinian gunman shot dead

Assailant opened fire, Israeli police say. Elsewhere, settlers go on a village rampage.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAJDI MOHAMMED Associated Press

PALESTINIAN mourners carry the body of Tariq Idris, 39, who died of wounds sustained Friday in confrontations with Israeli forces in Nablus in the West Bank.

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian assailant opened fire at an Israeli military checkpoint in the West Bank on Saturday before being shot and killed, Israeli police said. Elsewhere in the occupied territory, settlers rampaged through a Palestinian village, hurling stones, spraying bullets and setting fire to homes.

The Palestinian gunman approached Israeli troops stationed at the Qalandiya checkpoint outside Jerusalem early in the morning, pulled out an M-16 rifle and opened fire, the Israeli police said.

Israeli security forces said they shot back, killing the assailant. According to the Israeli rescue service, two security guards in their 20s were hospitalized with minor wounds — at least one from bullet fragments. There was no immediate word on the attacker's identity.

Later Saturday, residents of the Palestinian village of Umm Safa said that some 50 Israeli settlers armed with rifles and flammable liquid stormed through the streets and tried to set fire to at least five homes with people inside. The Israeli military said it sent security forces to the scene and arrested an Israeli citizen.

Palestinian rescue teams said they evacuated small children who were trapped inside a burning house.

Some settlers also opened fire at civilians and medics. A local station, Palestine TV, said settlers fired at Mohammed Radi, its correspondent covering the attacks, shattering his camera. The Palestinian Red Crescent said one of its medics was wounded by gunfire.

An additional two medics were wounded when settlers threw a large rock through the windshield of an ambulance.

Israeli settlers also shot and killed a horse in the village, said resident Ibrahim Ebiat. "This is pure terror," he said. "People are scared and angry."

Young Palestinians threw rocks at Israeli security forces who opened fire and unleashed tear gas at them, witnesses said. The Israeli military said it was "working to disperse the friction." One soldier was wounded by a thrown stone, it said.

The head of the Israeli opposition, Yair Lapid, called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to "condemn this disgrace and deal with it properly."

"Settler violence has crossed every line," he said.

The events capped a bloody week in the West Bank that left 16 Palestinians and four Israelis dead.

An hours-long gun battle between Israeli security forces and Palestinian militants in the Jenin refugee camp killed seven Palestinians and wounded eight Israeli soldiers last week. Two Palestinian gunmen then killed four Israeli civilians at a gas station before being fatally shot.

Then, a rare Israeli airstrike by a drone killed three Palestinian militants in a car. Israeli settler attacks in revenge for the deadly Palestinian shooting left one Palestinian dead, many wounded and a trail of destruction through Palestinian towns.

On Saturday, Palestinian health officials also said that a 39-year-old man, Tariq Idris, died of wounds sustained in confrontations with Israeli security forces in the northern city of Nablus the day before. The Israeli military had raided Nablus to arrest three suspected Palestinian militants and fired at residents who shot at them and threw Molotov cocktails, it said.

The spiraling violence has increased pressure on Netanyahu's far-right government, with its hard-liners calling for a broad military operation against Palestinian militants, as well as on the Palestinian Authority, which has come under criticism for failing to protect Palestinian civilians.

This year has been particularly deadly for Palestinians in the West Bank.

At least 137 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank so far in 2023, according to a tally by the Associated Press.

Nearly half of those killed were affiliated with militant groups.

As of Saturday, 24 people on the Israeli side have been killed in Palestinian attacks, most of them civilians.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Middle East War. The Palestinians seek those territories for a future independent state.

Threatened people of the Amazon keep circle of life turning

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALTO RIO GUAMA INDIGENOUS TERRITORY, Brazil — The Indigenous adolescents danced in a circle under the thatched-roof hut from nearly dawn to dusk while parents looked on from the perimeter. Some of the adults smoked tobacco mixed with the wood from a local tree in Brazil's Amazon rainforest.

The seemingly endless loop of the procession, taking place over six long days this month, was leaving some Tembé Tenehara youngsters with bandaged feet. They were receiving little to eat and spending each night sleeping in hammocks slung in the hut. But in the Alto Rio Guama territory, it is all part of a vital rite of passage known as Wyra'whaw.

Girls taking part in the coming-of-age ritual had already had their first periods. Boys' voices had begun to slip into lower registers. Upon the final day, the girls and boys would be viewed by the Teko-Haw village as women and men, and assume their roles leading the community into an uncertain future.

"We know of other ethnic [Indigenous] groups in Brazil that have already lost their culture, their tradition, their language. So we have this concern," Sergio Muti Tembé, leader of the Tembé people in the territory, told the Associated Press. Indigenous people in the Brazilian Amazon customarily adopt their ethnic group's name as their surname.

Their culture has been increasingly threatened. The Alto Rio Guama territory is a 1,081-square-mile triangle of preserved forest surrounded by severely logged landscape in the northeastern Amazon, home to 2,500 people of the Tembé, Timbira and Kaapor ethnicities.

But it has also been occupied by about 1,600 non-Indigenous settlers. Some have been there for decades, and many log trees or grow marijuana, public prosecutors in Para state say.

The local Indigenous people already patrol and try to expel outsiders. With limited capacity and authority, however, they have been eager for help. State and federal authorities last month put into motion a plan to remove them in an operation that represents the first effort under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to oust land-grabbers.

Authorities threatened forcible expulsion of settlers and pledged to eliminate access roads and irregular installations, a prosecutors' statement said. As of Monday, 90% of settlers had voluntarily departed, with rain-ravaged roads impeding the rest, the general secretariat of Brazil's presidency said.

Sergio Muti Tembé, the leader, said that the government's effort came not a moment too soon, and that his people are hopeful it will ensure the future of both their land and their customs.

On the second-to-last day of the Wyra'whaw ritual, mothers painted their children's bodies with the juice of the genipap fruit. Within hours, it had dyed their skin black; girls were transformed from head to toe, while boys were partially covered with designs, including upside-down triangles resembling beards on their faces.

The next morning, each adolescent was given a white headband with dangling feathers. Pairs of boys and girls locked arms as they skipped barefoot around villagers gathered in the circle's center, and made their final approach to adulthood.

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Wagner troops halt march to Moscow

[**Russia,** from A1]

In his earlier speech, Putin had vowed to punish those behind the uprising, the culmination of Prigozhin's bitter feud with Russia's defense establishment.

The uprising was framed as a strike against Russia's top military commanders, whose removal Prigozhin has demanded, rather than Putin himself. But it marks the latest calamitous blowback — staggeringly high military casualties, economic woes, diplomatic near-isolation — in a war that Kremlin planners had envisioned as a swift takeover of its smaller neighbor, a onetime Soviet republic.

For much of the day, Prigozhin's rebel convoy moved northward in the direction of Moscow, 700 miles away, meeting little resistance, although Russian military helicopters reportedly opened fire on the procession at one point.

Whatever the next moves are, the uprising was a shocking episode in a country that Putin has ruled with an iron fist for nearly a quarter-century. And it reveals a fragility to Putin's authority. It is not fully clear now what Prigozhin's future is and what exactly motivated him to back down.

The prospect of a nuclear-armed superpower falling into disarray terrified neighboring countries throughout Europe and put the White House on alert. President Biden on Saturday was briefed in a rare meeting of all senior U.S. officials from intelligence, Defense and diplomatic parts of government. Officials in numerous European capitals went into emergency sessions. U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken was in urgent consultations with his counterparts in six nations, including Germany and Japan, as well as the European Union as all sought to make sense of the rapidly unfolding developments.

"It looks like Putin's power of centralized, vertical strong government control is in question for the first time," said Rajan Menon, a political scientist who specializes in war and ethics at City University of New York and Columbia University.

While not immediately clear how, the crisis in Russia was bound to affect the war in Ukraine.

The bizarre turn of events across the border was regarded with caution by Ukrainian officials. While most said it was too soon to say how the turmoil might affect the battlefield picture, President Volodymyr Zelensky declared that it showed Ukraine stands as a bulwark against "the spread of Russian evil and chaos."

Many ordinary Ukrainians reacted to word of Putin's troubles with unrestrained glee. The 16-month-old war has leveled entire cities, pummeled national infrastructure, sent millions of Ukrainians fleeing their homes and killed and maimed thousands of civilians.

An overnight missile barrage on the capital, Kyiv, killed at least three people, Ukrainian officials said Saturday.

Prigozhin's mercenaries have fought alongside Russian troops in Ukraine, where they have been known for their use of spectacularly brutal tactics. During the bloody struggle for the eastern city of Bakhmut, Wagner used prisoner recruits for "human wave" attacks and executed those from its own ranks who faltered or tried to run away.

In what was described as an emergency address to the nation, Putin did not mention Prigozhin by name, but vowed to crush those taking part in the uprising.

For his part, Prigozhin refrained from criticizing Putin's rule directly, but cast himself as a popular savior against "corruption, deceit and bureaucracy." He said the Russian president was "deeply mistaken" in describing the rebellion as an assault on the homeland.

"We are patriots," he said in an audio message posted on his Telegram channel, calling the uprising a "march of justice."

Few Western journalists have remained in Russia after the March arrest of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, and a concerted campaign against independent Russian media that began almost as soon as the invasion occurred. Criticism of the military or the government's conduct of the war is treated as a criminal offense.

In part because of that, many questions about the uprising remain unanswered. Social media images posted by onlookers in Rostov-on-Don have shown military vehicles in the streets around the headquarters.

Prigozhin posted a video of himself, purportedly taken inside, and said Wagner troops who took part in the rebellion had crossed over from Ukraine with virtually no resistance from Russian troops.

In their march toward Moscow, Wagner elements did not seem to meet much resistance, according to reports from Russia.

Although the threat to Putin is manifesting itself from within, the Russian president — as he has throughout the war — railed against the West as the enemy and instigator. Russia, he declared, is the target of "the entire military, economic and information machine of the West."

> 'It looks like Putin's power of centralized, vertical strong government control is in question for the first time.'
>
> — Rajan Menon, political scientist at City University of New York and Columbia University

Prigozhin had denounced the Russian military establishment for months with no apparent repercussions, seemingly with tacit permission from Putin. But his declaration of armed rebellion, issued late Friday, crossed a line and triggered a call by authorities for his arrest.

Putin, who has taken harsh measures to quell any domestic dissent since the February 2022 invasion, suggested a crackdown against perceived conspirators was already beginning in the Russian capital.

"Additional anti-terrorist security measures are now being implemented in Moscow, Moscow region, and a number of other regions," he said, adding that "decisive actions would be taken to stabilize the situation" in Rostov-on-Don.

But he acknowledged that the situation in the southern city, which is a major center of operations for the Ukraine war, remained "difficult."

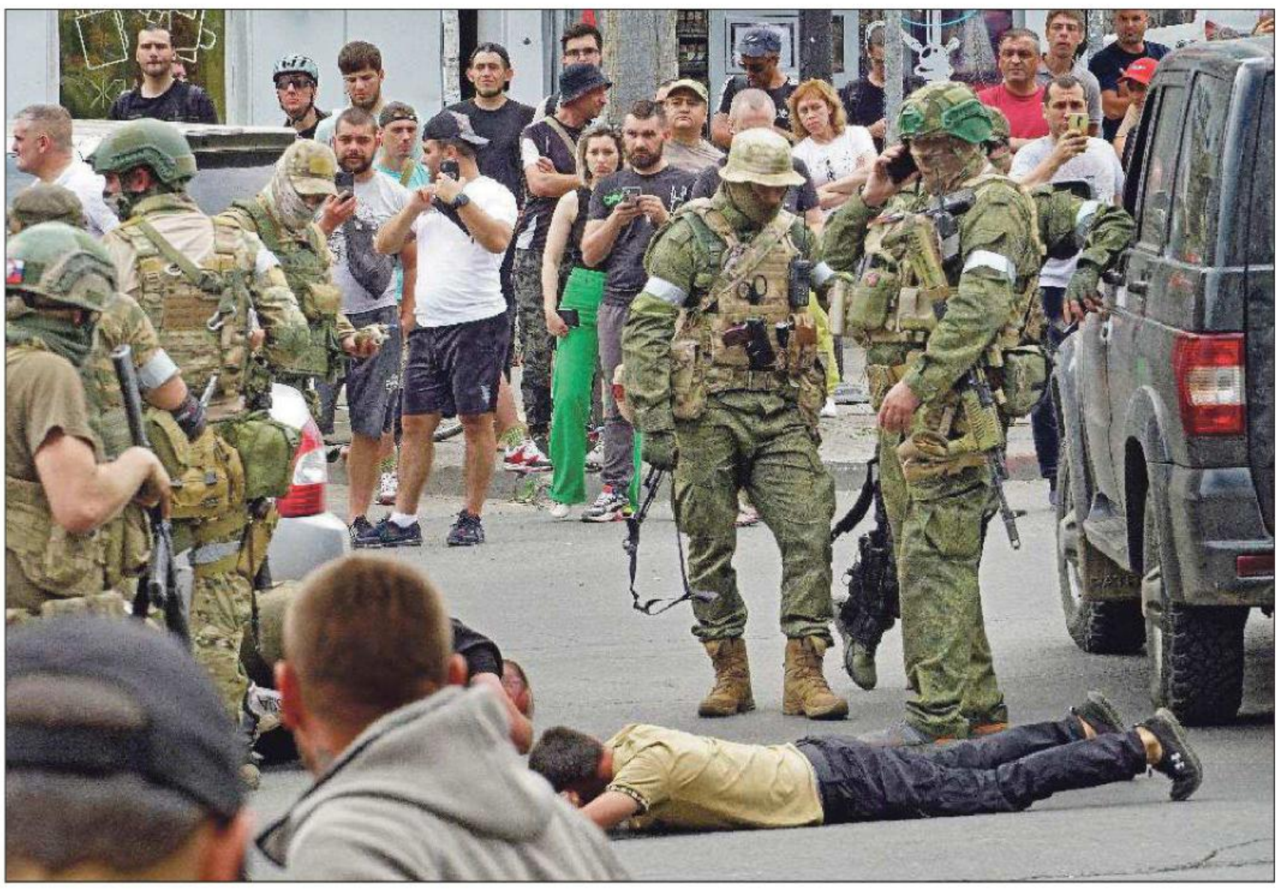
In recent months, Prigozhin has taken ever-sharpening aim at Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Gen. Valery Gerasimov, chief of the military General Staff. But he dramatically escalated his rhetoric in a series of angry messages over a period of about 24 hours, accusing the pair of ordering attacks on Wagner positions inside Ukraine.

Russia's Defense Ministry denied the claim.

Prigozhin's longer-term strategy remained unclear. Menon said the man once known as Putin's chef, because of his lucrative restaurant businesses, was not thought to be a gambler who would take uncalculated, suicidal risks. He could still have backing within Putin's inner circle that is unknown to Western observers, or some other reason to believe he will prevail.

"This goes beyond fighting a war in Ukraine," Menon said. "This is playing for keeps."

Times staff writers King and Wilkinson reported from Kyiv and Washington, respectively. Staff writer Erin Logan in Washington contributed to this report.



AFP/Getty Images

MEMBERS of the Wagner Group detain a man in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, where the private army said it had seized control of military headquarters that serve as the main rear logistical hub for the war on Ukraine.

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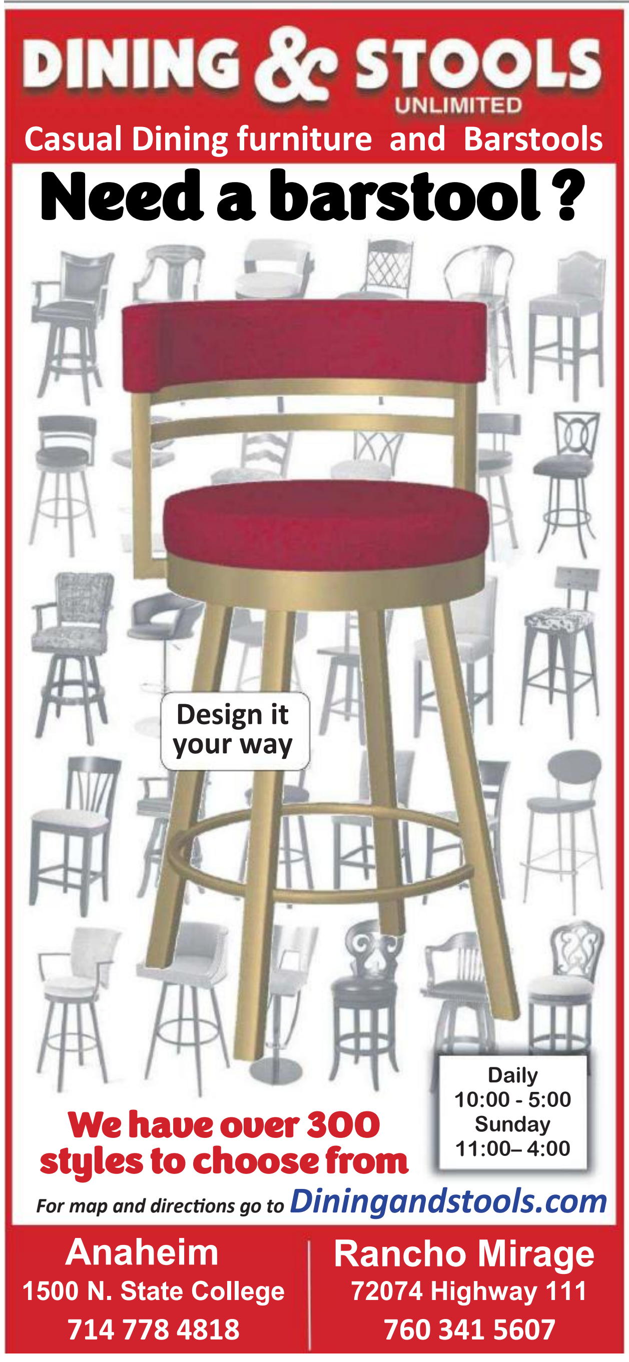

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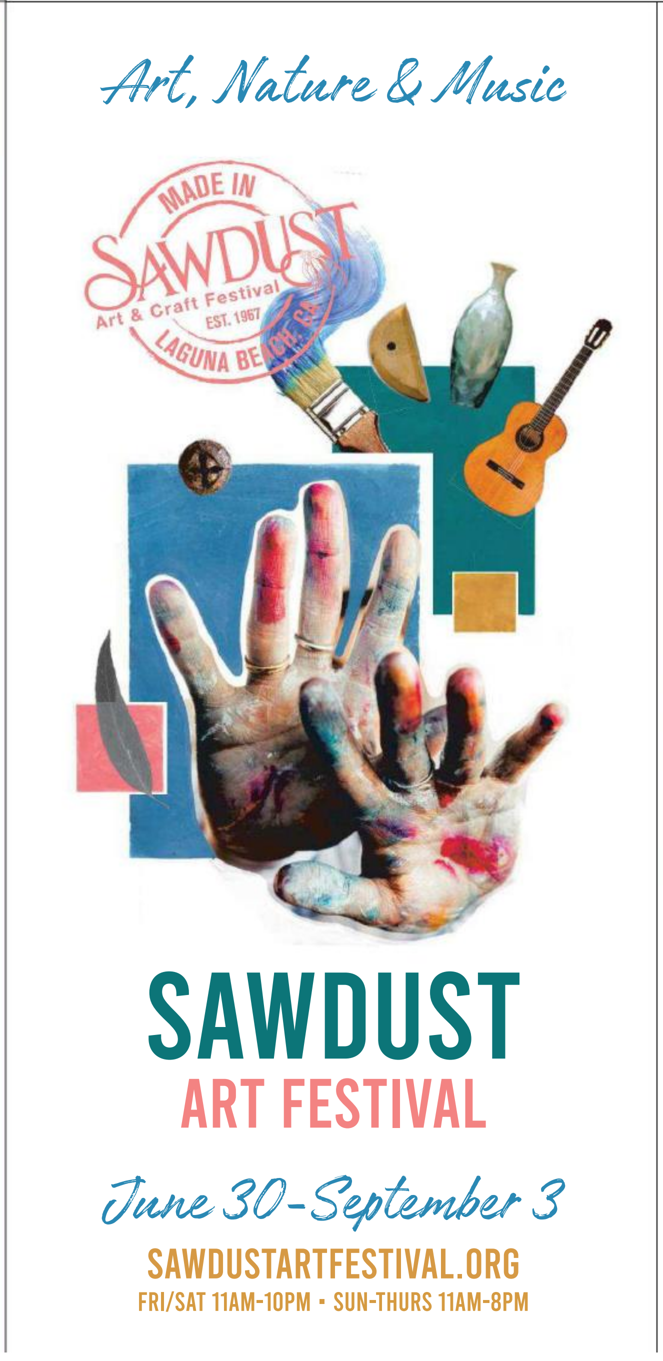

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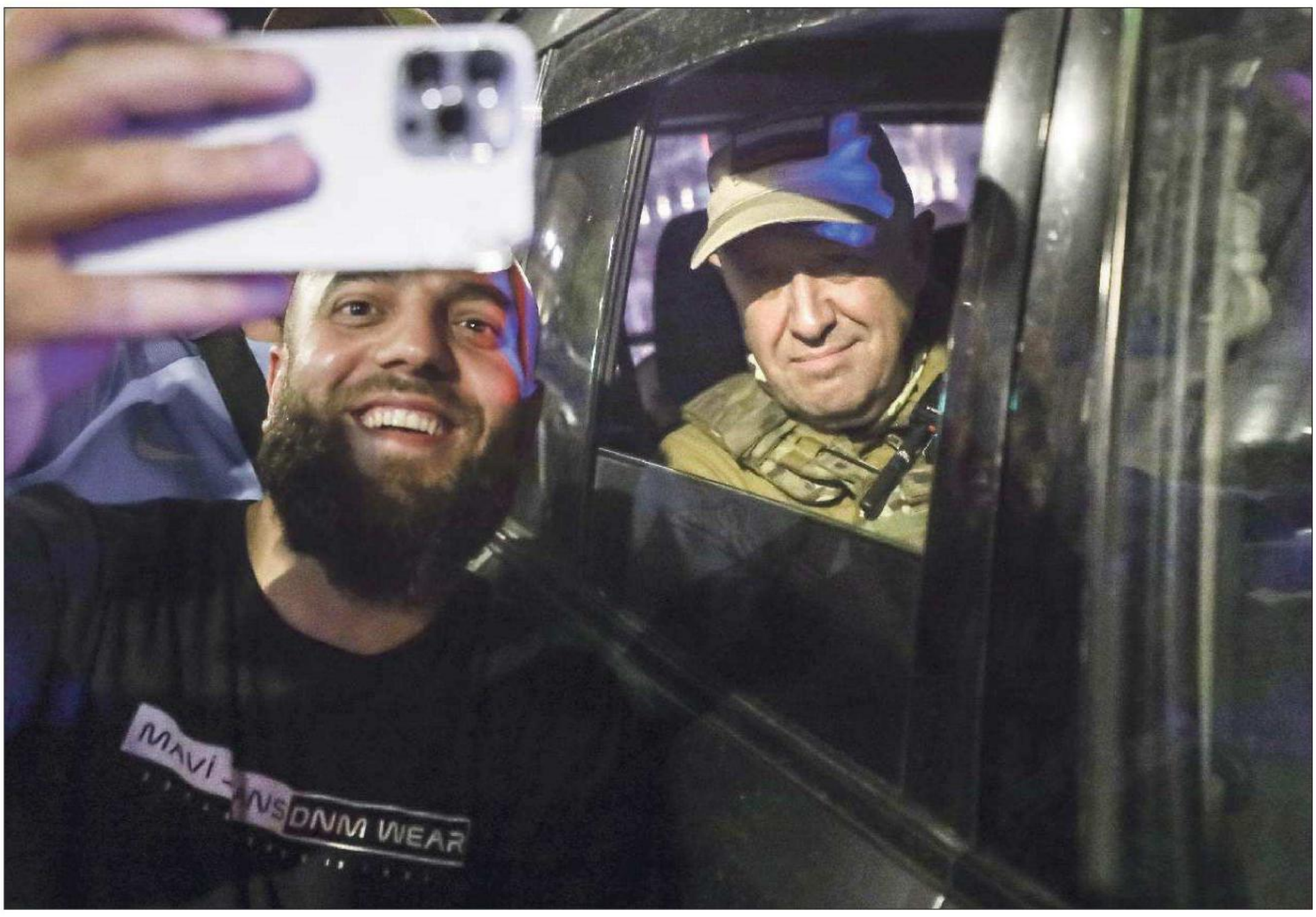
Expats hopeful, wary of Wagner uprising



Associated Press

A CIVILIAN takes a photo Saturday in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, with the Wagner Group's Yevgeny Prigozhin, who was threatening revolt.

[**Expats,** from A1]

filled with cherries, kefir and tomato juice outside Odessa Grocery on Santa Monica Boulevard. "I don't think it's going to change the war. [Prigozhin] won't win and won't weaken the Russian army."

Braginski, who was born in Estonia, has cousins in Russia and said he supports Ukraine and anyone standing on its side.

Inside the market, shoppers strolled past shelves lined with Russian candies and chips as a song from Russian Lithuanian singer Kristina Orbakaite blared through the speakers overhead.

Some spoke on condition that they not be identified out of fear of reprisals by those who disagreed with their opinions.

Nina, 67, who was raised in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv and declined to give her last name, was optimistic about the news that the Wagner Group had halted its march to Moscow.

"At the end of the day, peace will prevail," she said as she scoured the frozen-food aisle looking for pierogies for her mother.

She noted that her sister and nephew live in Zaporizhzhia, a city in southeast Ukraine where intense fighting has taken place.

Nina said she isn't a fan of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, but added that she does not support the war in her homeland.

"So many young kids are dying," she said. "There have been tragedies beyond imagination."

The Wagner Group operates in various countries and has fought alongside Russian forces since the start of the war in Ukraine.

The mercenary operation has relied on well-trained Russian military veterans as well as convicts recruited from prisons and used for indiscriminate "human wave" attacks against Ukrainian forces, according to a recent report by the U.S. Congressional Research Service.

Regardless of the outcome of Prigozhin's mercenary rebellion, he has tapped into popular sentiment across Russia, using social media to call out corruption and ineptitude of Russian generals leading the war in Ukraine, said Robert English, director of Central European studies at USC.

He said Prigozhin will continue to pose a threat to Russian President Vladimir Putin's long hold on power.

"Prigozhin is hitting all the right notes," English said Saturday in a telephone interview from Europe, where he has been monitoring the developments. "His message resonates."

In West Hollywood, Liana sat at her desk in a notary public office, describing the rebels as criminals but adding that "any means to overthrow Putin is good enough."

"It's probably benefiting Ukraine that the mutiny and disruption is happening," said the 26-year-old, who declined to give her last name out of concern for her mother in Russia.

"I believe in the domino effect, that one event will impact another and then another," Liana said. "But no one knows what's going to happen."

Liana, who came to the United States nine years ago to attend drama school, called the war "surreal" and said she has complicated thoughts about U.S. support of Ukraine.

"I don't think the U.S. is supporting Ukraine out of the pureness of its heart," she said. " I think there's always a political agenda when a country gets involved. Nevertheless, it's good because Ukraine doesn't have the same resources as Russia. And now it can fight back."

But she said she doesn't know how, or when, the war will end.

"I really hope for the best," she said after a long pause.

"I just want people to be safe and continue to live as they were. But so many things have happened that are irreversible. That will never be forgotten."

Her co-worker Nadia Akarsu, 36, remembers the day a bomb shook her awake in her Kyiv apartment.

It was Feb. 24, 2022, the day Russian troops stormed into her homeland.

"It's horrible. We Ukrainians didn't think it was possible in [the] 21st century," she said.

Although she called Prigozhin a "criminal," Akarsu was glad when she heard news of the Wagner rebellion against the Russian army.

"When an enemy is divided and there's conflict between themselves, it's good," she said. "I don't think it will benefit Ukraine yet, but it will spread the attention of Russian forces."

Akarsu fled the war last year and left behind her father and many friends, and said she's appreciative of the U.S. support of Ukraine.

"The attack is a danger to world society and to peace," she said. "The United States is the strongest country in the world and the leader of the world, and I'm glad they are taking responsibility as a leader."

As for how she thinks the war will end, Akarsu is hopeful.

"I hope and believe that Ukraine will get back all territories occupied by Russia right now, and that we will be more independent and stronger than ever," she said.

But she thinks it won't happen anytime soon.

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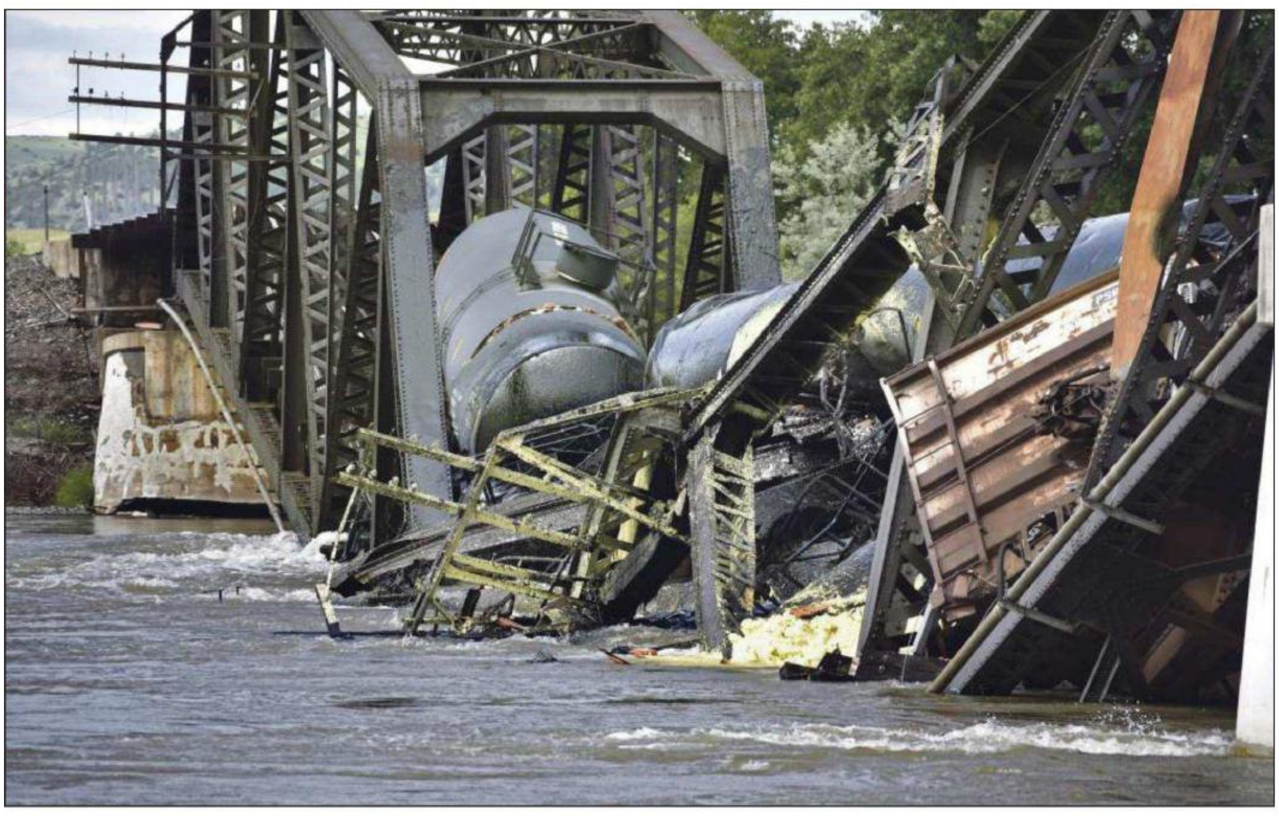

Matthew Brown Associated Press

TRAIN CARS carrying hot asphalt and molten sulfur plunged into the Yellowstone River near Columbus, Mont., when a bridge collapsed Saturday. Officials shut down drinking-water intakes downstream.

Yellowstone River bridge collapses

By Matthew Brown

COLUMBUS, Mont. — A bridge that crosses the Yellowstone River in Montana collapsed early Saturday, plunging portions of a freight train carrying hazardous materials into the rushing water below.

The train cars were carrying hot asphalt and molten sulfur, Stillwater County Disaster and Emergency Services said. Officials shut down drinking-water intakes downstream while they evaluated the danger. An Associated Press reporter witnessed a yellow substance coming out of some of the tank cars.

David Stamey, Stillwater County's chief of emergency services, said there was no immediate danger for the crews working at the site, and the hazardous material was being diluted by the swollen river.

There were three asphalt cars and four sulfur cars in the river.

The train crew was safe, and no injuries were reported, Montana Rail Link spokesman Andy Garland said in a statement.

Railroad crews were at the scene near the town of Columbus, about 40 miles west of Billings. The area is in a sparsely populated section of the Yellowstone River Valley, surrounded by ranchland and farmland. The river there flows away from Yellowstone National Park, which is about 110 miles to the southwest.

"We are committed to addressing any potential impacts to the area as a result of this incident and working to understand the reasons behind the accident," Garland said.

Officials in neighboring Yellowstone County said they had instituted emergency measures at water treatment plants due to the "potential hazmat spill" and had asked residents to conserve water.

The cause of the collapse is under investigation. The river was swollen with recent heavy rains, but it's unclear whether that was a factor.

The Yellowstone saw record flooding in 2022 that caused extensive damage to Yellowstone National Park and adjacent towns in Montana. Robert Bea, a retired engineering professor at UC Berkeley who has analyzed the causes of hundreds of major disasters, said repeated flooding provides a clue to the possible cause of the bridge collapse.

"The high water flow translates to high forces acting directly on the pier and, importantly, on the river bottom," Bea said. "You can have erosion or scour that removes support from the foundation. High forces translate to a high likelihood of a structural or foundation failure that could act as a trigger to initiate the accident."

Bea said investigators should also look at whether there was wear or rust in bridge components, as well as a record of maintenance, repair and inspections.

Federal Railroad Administration officials were at the scene.

Kelly Hitchcock of the Columbus Water Users Assn. shut off the flow of river water into an irrigation ditch downstream from the collapsed bridge to prevent the contents of the tank cars from reaching nearby farmland. The Stillwater County Sheriff's Office called the group Saturday morning to notify it about the collapse, Hitchcock said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that sulfur is a common element used as fertilizer, insecticide, fungicide and rodenticide.

Brown writes for the Associated Press.

McCarthy supports expunging Trump's two impeachments

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said he supports the idea of expunging the two impeachments of Donald Trump, as hard-right Republican allies of the former president introduce a pair of proposals to treat the historic charges as though they never happened.

McCarthy told reporters Friday that he agrees with Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Elise Stefanik, who want to erase the charges against Trump from his impeachments in 2019 and 2021.

"I think it is appropriate," said McCarthy (R-Bakersfield). "Just as I thought before — that you should expunge it, because it never should have gone through."

Pressed on his views, McCarthy confirmed that he agreed with expunging both of Trump's impeachments — the abuse of power charges in 2019 over pressing Ukraine's president to dig up dirt on rival Joe Biden, and the 2021 charge that he'd incited the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection as he and his supporters tried to overturn Biden's election.

In both cases, Trump was acquitted by the GOP-led Senate after his impeachment by the Democrat-led House, despite bipartisan Senate votes in favor of conviction.

The effort to expunge his impeachments is the latest by Trump's allies to rewrite the narrative of the defeated president's tenure in office as he seeks another term in the White House. And it underscores the pressure McCarthy is under from his right flank.

Last week, McCarthy sidelined a proposal from Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) to impeach President Biden, sending it to committees for review.

Explaining his views, McCarthy said he believed Trump's first impeachment, in 2019, should have never happened, and conflated it with a separate investigation by the Justice Department into Russian interference in the 2016 election. As for the 2021 trial the week after the attack on the Capitol, he said it "had no due process."

McCarthy gave no indication that he would move quickly to have the House vote on the expungement proposals from Greene (R-Ga.) and Stefanik (R-N.Y.), the chamber's fourth-ranking Republican. Pressed on whether the proposals were a priority, he listed other GOP goals.

Asked whether he had spoken with Trump about expunging the impeachments, McCarthy said he had not.

Trump is the first president in U.S. history to be twice impeached.

Democrats have defended their decision to quickly impeach Trump a second time after a mob of his supporters attacked the Capitol in 2021.

They argue that the evidence played out for the world to see as the defeated president rallied his supporters to Washington and encouraged them to march to the Capitol as Congress was certifying Biden's election.

Trump was first impeached in 2019 after it was disclosed that he had encouraged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to dig up political dirt on then-White House rival Biden — while Trump was withholding U.S. military aid to Ukraine as it faced Russian aggression.

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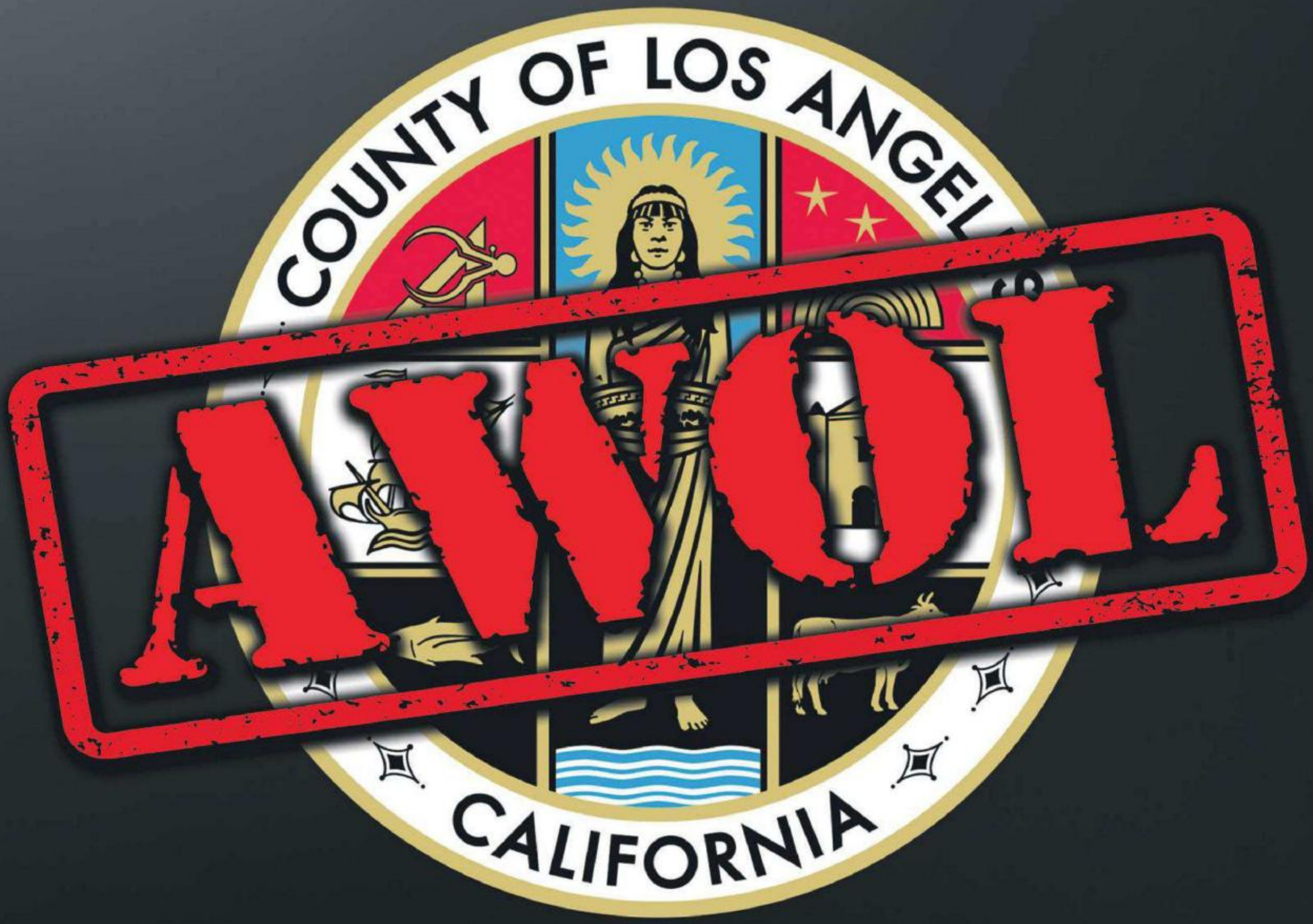

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Dania Maxwell Los Angeles Times

AN EMPTY SKYSCRAPER in downtown L.A. The pandemic and remote work hollowed out many office buildings and helped shut restaurants and businesses.

Luis Sinco Los Angeles Times

THE STEEL and glass structures of the financial district on Bunker Hill, where the Music Center has been joined by museums, apartments and a high-rise hotel.

VICTORIA'S SECRET
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Dania Maxwell Los Angeles Times

AN OUTDOOR MALL in downtown L.A. Many companies have returned to their offices, but on a limited basis as their employees work some days from home.

NO LONGER A HIVE OF SUITS AND TIES

[**Downtown,** from A1]

planners, real estate developers and business owners with interests in it — the area will recover only if its identity grows more textured than a zone of white-collar office space.

Desirable office addresses were already spreading beyond the financial district before the pandemic, as downtown experienced a renaissance in housing, art and entertainment on blocks previously shunned by investors and residents.

To the south, billions of dollars were spent improving the blocks around Crypto.com Arena with hotels, housing and entertainment venues. Obsolete century-old commercial and industrial buildings to the east were renovated into desirable housing and fashionably unconventional offices. Billions more were spent north on Bunker Hill, where the Music Center (including Walt Disney Concert Hall) and office skyscrapers have been joined by museums, apartments and a high-rise hotel.

The housing boom drew residents to the financial district as well, and that has kept it from turning into a ghost town.

But for the area to truly come back to life, many say it will need to follow the path of Lower Manhattan. The financial capital of New York faced an exodus after 9/11, but city officials and investors staved it off by making it a place of more diverse uses. It is still an office district but is far more lively than it used to be since it also became a residential neighborhood with more shops, restaurants, parks and hotels than it had before the attacks. A performing arts center will open in September.

"Cities evolve. That's what they do," said downtown L.A. business representative Nick Griffin. "From natural disasters, wars and pandemics. They evolve with market changes, customer preferences and cultural shifts. Downtown has evolved pretty dramatically over the last 20 years, and the next five or so are going to be very interesting."

Many companies have returned to their offices, but on a limited basis as their employees work some days from home. "For Lease" signs clutter building fronts, tacked over restaurants and bars that once served lively hordes of office workers. Graffiti marks windows.

At Public School 213, the chairs are stacked neatly on tables as if it just closed for the night. Other former restaurants have been gutted by their landlords. Sidewalks are quiet, sometimes eerily so.

Downtown's centers of gravity have shifted numerous times since its days as a remote Spanish pueblo.

The plaza by Olvera Street near the Los Angeles River was *el centro* until the late 19th century. When the railroads arrived in the American era, the business elite shifted the commercial district south from the plaza toward 1st Street in the Anglo section of the racially divided city, said Greg Fischer, an expert on the history of downtown who worked on planning matters for former City Councilwoman Jan Perry. Main, Spring, Broadway and Hill streets became the business hub.

In the early 20th century, elite social clubs such as the Jonathan Club, the California Club and the Los Angeles Athletic Club erected new buildings on the west side of downtown where property was relatively cheap. Soon the rooming houses, small apartment buildings and ramshackle Victorian homes there gave way. Richfield and other oil companies headquartered there, the seeds of today's financial district.

In "the Jetsons era," as Fischer described the 1960s, corporate leaders viewed the Spring Street-centered office district as increasingly obsolete and passé and moved to newer buildings in the financial district. Downtown lost a lot of its lifeblood during that time, he said.

"In the years after World War II, downtown was a shopping, office and entertainment area," Fischer said. "By the 1960s the office component had shifted west, most entertainment went to suburbs and housing just evaporated."

Among the big businesses with offices in the west were the Richfield, Union, Signal, National and Superior oil companies. Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Co. was headquartered there and Bank of America had a big presence.

The boundaries of the financial district are not officially outlined, but property brokerage CBRE defines it as the office center south of Bunker Hill and 4th Street, flanked on the west by the 110 Freeway and on the east by Hill Street and extending south to 8th Street.

By the 1980s, much of downtown was moribund; buildings that once thrummed with commerce were dilapidated and vacant or underused. There were pockets of vibrancy, notably the Jewelry District and a Latino-centric shopping zone that emerged among aging buildings along Broadway in the Historic Core. The Civic Center around City Hall remained one of the largest concentrations of public administrative buildings in the country, employing thousands of workers.

But the financial district was the shiny thriving part of the city, a high-rise office park for lawyers, bankers and accountants who piled into their cars for a mass exodus at the end of each workday.

To many, the neighborhood felt like a corporate fortress, invisibly walled off from the rest of downtown. Business leaders were painfully aware that downtown L.A. lacked the vibrancy of other big cities because it had so few residents but was stuck in a chicken-and-egg dilemma: People didn't want to live there because it lacked restaurants, grocery stores and other typical city-life amenities, but merchants didn't want to set up shop because few lived there.

The stalemate began to break around 2000 with an ordinance that made it easier to redevelop obsolete office buildings into housing. The relocation of the Lakers, Clippers and Kings pro sports teams to the new downtown arena then known as Staples Center brought thousands of sports and music fans and led a wave of development south of the financial district.

Decades of efforts to add rail service and thousands of apartments and condominiums helped create a more vibrant downtown that was taking on the flavor of other big cities before the pandemic.

"All of a sudden people were walking dogs and pushing baby carriages," architect Martha Welborne said. "New restaurants came in, even destination restaurants that weren't just for the people who worked downtown or lived there."

Fortunately for downtown's future prospects, its apartment towers remain nearly fully occupied. More than 35,000 units were built after 1999, when so few people lived there that downtown didn't even have a big-chain grocery store.

Three new hotels have recently opened and a 42-story apartment tower will start leasing later this year. Bottega Louie, one of the region's top-grossing restaurants before it shut down during the pandemic, reopened in 2021. A few blocks away, legendary Beverly Hills steakhouse Mastro's also opened a seafood restaurant last year near Crypto.com Arena.

And on June 16, Metro opened its new Regional Connector, a 1.9-mile underground downtown track adding three stations and linking different lines to make travel more seamless.

Though some business owners have abandoned the financial district, others see an opportunity to get in at an affordable price during what they hope is a temporary economic dip.

Restaurateur Prince Riley recently leased a spot on Grand Avenue that was last home to the Red Herring restaurant. He grabbed it because he liked the location and it was already built-out for upscale dining.

"You can see all the love and care that went into this space," he said. "They were a casualty of COVID."

Riley and his wife plan to open their restaurant, named Joyce, in July, featuring a raw bar and Southern-style seafood such as crudo and ceviche. They moved into the apartment building upstairs to be close to it.

The couple like being near Bottega Louie, a popular Whole Foods grocery store and the recently opened Hotel Per La, which took over a lavishly refurbished 1920s building last occupied by another hotel that closed early in the pandemic.

"I can see business picking up," Riley said. "This is an opportunity from a terrible tragedy like COVID. We wouldn't have had this otherwise."

A key factor keeping downtown teetering between recovery and a further downward slide appears to be discomfort with the streets and the sense that they are not as safe as they were before the pandemic.

The blocks close to Metro's underground 7th Street/Metro Center station, where multiple light- and heavy-rail train lines meet, are among those that have changed the most since the pandemic as the Metro system struggles to combat rampant drug use and serious crimes such as robbery, rape and aggravated assault on its lines.

The growing number of homeless people on the streets has been an issue in other cities too, said Cognian of Public School 213. His company also closed restaurants in Seattle and San Francisco because customers at their urban locations trickled away as unhoused people commandeered the sidewalks.

"Hopefully, we as a city, as a state, find a solution for the homeless," he said. "If the homeless situation doesn't get solved in some fashion that allows tourists, office workers and businesses to operate, it's just going to bring down the area."

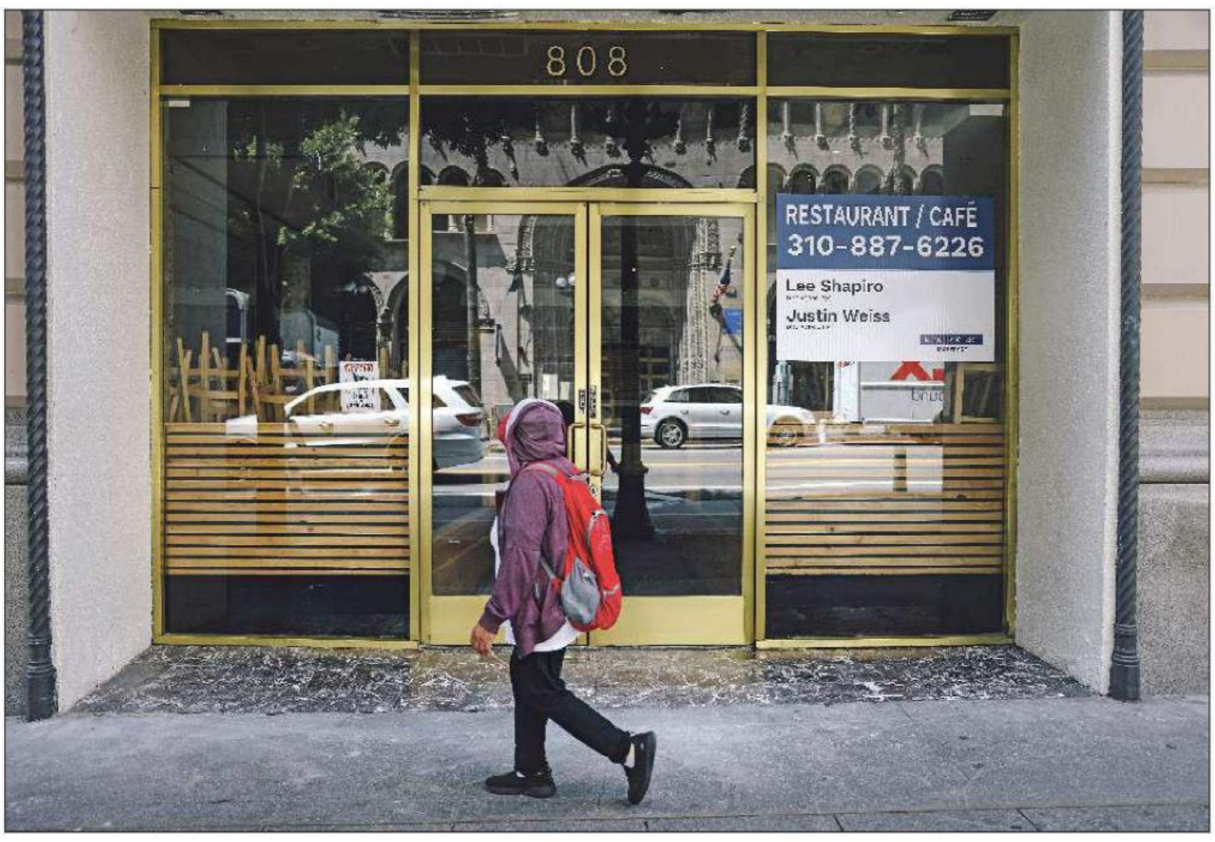
Real estate broker Derrick Moore of CBRE, who specializes in matching restaurant and shop operators with landlords, said leasing of retail space downtown has improved in recent months, especially compared to the dark days of the 2020 pandemic shutdown when downtown fell silent.

"It seems like ancient history," Moore said, "but it was very devastating to one's psyche." And to downtown businesses.

In the wake of the COVID shutdown, downtown overall lost more than 100 food and beverage establishments with a combined footprint of more than 1 million square feet, Moore said.

"That's restaurants, bars and lounges, juice bars, boutique coffee operators and even national brands," Moore said. "A good portion of those remain vacant."

Replacement tenants like Joyce restaurant are starting to come in, he said,



Dania Maxwell Los Angeles Times

A PEDESTRIAN passes a restaurant or cafe space for rent in downtown L.A. Though some business owners have abandoned the financial district, others see an opportunity to get in at an affordable price.

with leasing and property showings picking up in the first quarter at a "resoundingly" busier pace than early 2022. Moore has taken potential tenants to the empty Public School space, where across the street the failed Standard Hotel just reopened under new management as the Delphi.

Faced with a challenging market, retail landlords have cut their asking rents as much as 50% from pre-COVID prices, Moore said, and more than doubled the amount they are willing to spend on tenant upgrades such as installing restaurant kitchens and restrooms, and providing periods of free rent.

The financial district also faces a struggle of changing tastes, with many firms bypassing the gleaming skyscrapers that were the height of prestige in the late 20th century in favor of campus-style offices and a more laid-back vibe.

Even legal firms, long a stalwart in the financial district, are turning elsewhere in some cases. One firm established in February recently opted out of putting its office there.

"When we started to look at space it became very clear to us that locating in the financial district was a very different proposition than it used to be," said Matt Umhofer, a partner at Umhofer, Mitchell & King. "Downtown has changed dramatically, and we wanted to rethink what it means to be a law firm in Los Angeles and let go of preconceived notions of needing to be in the financial district in order to be relevant."

The fledgling firm opted instead for an office in Row DTLA, a campus of shops, restaurants and offices created out of century-old warehouses near the Arts District, east of the financial center, even though office rents in the Arts District are often higher than they are in the glitzy skyscrapers.

"The short version is, being in the financial district isn't as cool as maybe it was in the past," Umhofer said.

The spotty attendance of office workers has changed the character of business centers across the country, said Mark Grinis, leader of consulting firm EY's real estate, hospitality and construction practice.

An analysis by EY found that offices are being used at only 25% to 50% of the level they were before the pandemic.

"In some locations, three-quarters of the people that normally would have gone in, didn't," Grinis said. "People are not on the subway, ordering sandwiches at lunch or having a drink after work."

Vacant offices and storefronts can hinder recovery, he said, because people shy away from empty spaces.

"Three blocks of vacant houses in a residential neighborhood ultimately becomes a negative," he said. "An office center is not that different."

The physical appearance of vacancy becomes more alarming when graffiti, litter and grime follow and create a bad "multiplier effect," Grinis said.

Stopping the spiral starts with making the streets safe and getting homeless residents into better housing, but there are also public policy decisions that could help landlords convert office buildings to housing if they are no longer competitive on the office leasing market.

> 'What we're seeing is a perfect storm when it comes to the office distress in downtown L.A.'
>
> — Jessica Lall,
> managing director of the downtown office of property brokerage CBRE

And the market has been brutal. Owners of some of downtown's office high-rises have faced defaults, foreclosures and rushed sales in the face of falling demand, real estate data provider CoStar said.

The owner of two of the financial district's premier office towers, 777 Tower and Gas Company Tower, said in February that it defaulted on loans tied to the buildings. Other high-rise owners are in similar straits.

In the face of rising vacancy rates, "those defaults could signal pain to come for the 69-million-square-foot downtown L.A. office market," CoStar said.

Owners of buildings facing foreclosure sometimes don't have enough money to build out new tenants' offices, as is customary, which hinders strapped landlords from recovering financially.

Commercial landlords are getting hit on multiple fronts, said Jessica Lall, managing director of the downtown office of CBRE.

"What we're seeing is a perfect storm when it comes to the office distress in downtown L.A.," she said.

Loans on large-scale properties are maturing at a time when interest rates are high, making refinancing a challenge, Lall said. There is widespread uncertainty among tenants about how much space they will need to rent in the future if employees work remotely at least some of the time.

Those issues are compounded by "the general perception around downtown being unsafe," she said. "All urban centers are grappling with that issue right now."

The downtown office vacancy rate — the share of total space that is unleased — climbed to 24% in the first quarter, up from 21.1% a year ago, according to CBRE. More empty space is coming, the brokerage said, pushing estimated availability to a daunting 30% as some companies shrink their offices or move away from downtown.

Law firm Skadden, for example, a large longtime tenant in downtown's Bunker Hill district, has decided to move its offices to Century City .

The landlord of the U.S. Bank Tower, downtown's tallest office tower at 72 stories, remains bullish on the market in spite of its troubles and recently spent $60 million to make the building more attractive to tenants by adding hotel-like amenities.

"People need offices," said Marty Burger, chief executive of Silverstein Properties, which owns the tower. "Not every company in every industry needs an office, but the majority of them do."

Among the reasons for offices are collaboration and education, he said. "How do you mentor the young folks who are coming up in your industry if the older people aren't in the office for younger people to learn from? There is a whole ecosystem where you need people in an office now."

Companies may end up using their offices fewer days of the week than they used to as remote work and shortened schedules grow in popularity, he acknowledged: "Fridays may never be Fridays again."

Burger says his optimism about downtown L.A.'s potential for improvement has a foundation in New York, where Silverstein built One World Trade Center on the site of the Twin Towers.

"After 9/11, everyone said that no one would ever live there or work there again," Burger said.

In 2001, the neighborhood had about 20,000 residents and saw little activity after office hours. Now rebuilt, the neighborhood has about 75,000 residents and a greater mix of office tenants including businesses in tech and advertising in what was mostly a banking center before, Burger said.

"It's a vibrant 24/7 community," he said.

Many see this as the best future for L.A.'s financial district.

The city's tight housing market combined with the downturn in office rentals opens the possibility to convert some office buildings into housing or hotels.

More residents and visitors would make the neighborhood more dynamic and better able to support restaurants, shops and nightlife, said Griffin, executive director of the privately funded Downtown Center Business Improvement District, a nonprofit coalition of more than 2,000 property owners.

"If we trade some office for residential, that's a good thing."

The pandemic's blow to the office market "is an opportunity that none of us ever imagined happening," Welborne said, "transforming office buildings into residential buildings and reimagining our entire downtown."

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(05/23)

The powerful role that college majors play

[**College,** from A1]

As millions of high school and college students graduate this month to pursue higher education or launch newly minted careers, the data highlight the powerful role that their majors play in determining postgraduate earnings regardless of the prestige of the institutions they attend. The analysis comes amid growing scrutiny over the value of college degrees — and whether higher education is worth the rising costs.

"Overwhelmingly, the answer is still yes, college is worth it," said Michael Itzkowitz, president of the HEA Group. "However, students and families should choose the institution they go to and the major they pursue wisely when making one of the largest financial decisions they'll ever make."

Majors matter

While UC and top private campuses are flooded with applications, students' postgraduation earnings can be as much — or more — with degrees from the more accessible California State University or California Community Colleges, depending on the field, data analyzing California institutions showed.

Among computer engineering majors, for instance, San José State graduates earn a median $127,047 four years after graduation. That's nearly the same as UCLA's $128,131 and more than USC's $115,102, as well as seven other UC campuses that offer the major, which combines software development with hardware design. Cal State graduates in that field from Chico, Long Beach, Fresno, Fullerton, Sacramento, San Francisco and San Luis Obispo earn more than $90,000 annually.

"It really pays to look at outcomes and not be blinded by the brand name," said Martin Van Der Werf of Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce. "The best brand name doesn't necessarily mean it's going to result in the highest life earnings."

Itzkowitz said Cal State is a particularly good deal. The CSU annual base tuition is only $5,742, compared with $13,752 at UC and $66,640 at USC, although such variables as financial aid and housing costs affect the actual out-of-pocket expenses. Even if Cal State increases tuition, which some officials are proposing to address a $1.5-billion budget gap, the price would still be thousands lower than UC.

"The CSU system itself has really been shown as a pillar of producing economic mobility for students," Itzkowitz said. "It enrolls a more economically diverse student body. And it also has been shown to produce strong economic outcomes for lower- and moderate-income students. They're really at the top of the list of affordability and outcomes."

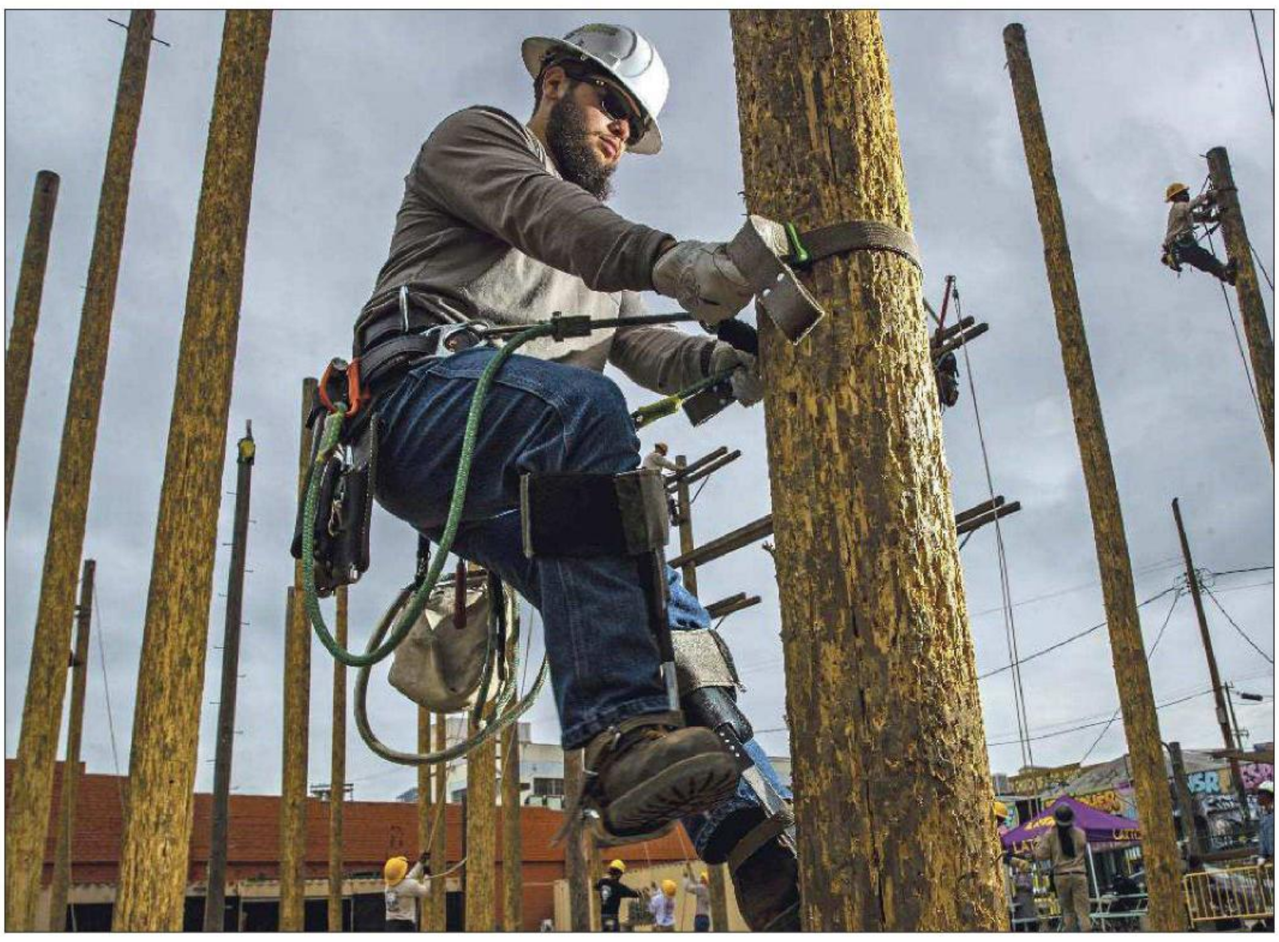
A hard look at college outcomes

Amid fears about college costs and loan burdens, more students and families are looking to higher education for clear career dividends rather than a general quest for intellectual enrichment, Van Der Werf said. That trend has accelerated since higher education costs began to climb after the 2008 recession, he added.

At UC Berkeley, for instance, computer science is now the most popular major, rocketing from seventh place in 2014-15, while psychology and English have fallen. The campus recently unveiled a new College of Computing, Data Science and Society — its first new college in more than 50 years — to respond to enormous demand from students and faculty. Data science has become the university's third-most-popular major just five years after it was established.

Colleges are under growing scrutiny by federal and state officials for the returns they deliver. Comprehensive public data about the median salaries earned by graduates in specific majors at specific universities became available beginning in 2015 with the launch of the federal College Scorecard — an accountability effort by the Obama administration that accelerated under President Trump.

In California, Gov. Gavin Newsom has increasingly tied education funding to career training in specific high-demand fields — healthcare, education, climate and technology. Newsom and the state's three public systems of higher education have agreed on goals to educate more graduates in those fields, and the governor has proposed or invested hundreds of millions of dollars in career-focused programs for high school students. Some of that funding, however, could be cut during negotiations with the Legislature to close a $31.5-billion budget deficit.



Photographs by IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

ELIJAH CALDERON is poised to earn about $105,000 annually as a power lineman, after a yearlong program at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. "Be a little more open to trade school. Give it a chance," he said.

STUDENTS in Calderon's program stretch before training. The field will propel them to the top 5% of wage earners among recent California college graduates.

California majors at a glance

The highest-, median- and lowest-earning undergraduate majors, respectively, of each California college system.

Institution	Field of study	Median earnings four years after graduation
Private universities		
Caltech	Computer and information sciences, general	253,305
Vanguard University of Southern California	Business administration, management and operations	55,422
California Institute of the Arts	Fine and studio arts	13,336
University of California		
Berkeley	Electrical, electronics and communications engineering	202,911
San Diego	Political science and government	55,931
Irvine	Dance	22,738
California State University		
San Luis Obispo	Computer and information sciences, general	181,838
Sacramento	Health and physical education/fitness	52,213
Long Beach	Dance	17,572
California Community Colleges		
Foothill College	Allied health diagnostic, intervention, and treatment professions	133,485
Yuba College	Business administration, management and operations	40,197
Los Angeles Trade-Technical College	Cosmetology and related personal grooming services	12,199

Adult education programs, for-profit universities and programs with privacy suppressed data for median earnings were excluded. Only data from students who received federal financial aid are included.

The HEA Group

PHI DO Los Angeles Times

Newsom is aiming to foster closer connections between educators and employers to meet state workforce needs and to create student pipelines to meaningful careers — an approach used in Singapore, said Ben Chida, who leads Newsom's educational agenda as chief deputy Cabinet secretary.

"The core question facing education and our young people today is: How do we help students find and make meaning in their lives?" Chida said. "It oftentimes involves having a career … that leads to both personal and community prosperity."

Other states are also linking career training to higher education funding. A new Texas law will tie the majority of state community college funding to performance-based measures, including postgraduate earnings and the number of credentials awarded in high-demand fields.

Such developments highlight long-standing questions over whether universities should cater to the market trends of the day or retain the full breadth of educational offerings, including liberal arts. As workforce demand in computer science, engineering and healthcare fields explodes, some institutions are making more room for these majors by cutting less popular programs — often targeting the humanities.

In Virginia, Marymount University trustees created an uproar in February by unanimously voting to ax nearly a dozen liberal arts majors, including art, economics, English, history, mathematics, philosophy, secondary education, sociology, theology and religious studies. The majors will be dropped for new students beginning this fall but the classes will still be offered, a spokesman said.

A 2017 UC report pushed back on efforts to diminish the humanities and favor fields thought to lead to high-paying jobs. The report, commissioned by the UC Office of the President, called such policies "shortsighted" and "unnecessary market intervention" because states have a poor track record of predicting future workforce needs and fail to consider the speed at which technology is changing the nature of work.

The report noted that automation was expected to displace as many as 40% of U.S. jobs — and the rise of generative artificial intelligence could affect as many as 300 million jobs globally, a recent Goldman Sachs analysis concluded.

In contrast, the UC report said, the study of humanities builds such evergreen skills as communication, teamwork and critical thinking. It noted that humanities graduates nationally earn on average "significantly" more than the national median income and that the pay gap with other fields narrows over time. But even if colleges trim liberal arts majors, they will retain the classes as part of their broad core curriculum requirements for every student — a hallmark of U.S. higher education.

The California picture

The data compiled from more than 36,000 programs at 4,441 public and private institutions nationwide reflected median earnings for the Class of 2016 four years later, adjusted for inflation. It marks a single point in time; wages grow after that at different rates — those for liberal arts majors, for instance, increase more quickly than others, although they never catch up to science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

Overall, computer science, engineering and health sciences programs provide the highest returns on college investments.

In California, where 2,700 programs at 386 institutions were analyzed, about 42% of majors delivered median earnings between $40,000 and $59,999. They included a range of majors, including business administration, biology, communications, mathematics and criminal justice.

Business administration drew the largest number of students. Median annual income for graduates of four-year programs varied widely — from $123,780 for UC Berkeley to $28,602 for La Sierra University, a private campus in Riverside.

The highest-paid graduates are Caltech computer and information sciences majors, who earn $253,305.

Health field graduates also command high salaries — including those with community college degrees. Registered nursing graduates with two-year degrees from Sacramento City College earn $123,056 annually, more than those with bachelor's degrees in nursing from UCLA and UC Irvine. Experts say that geography can play a role, with wages often higher in the Bay Area. Most community college registered nursing programs deliver median earnings of more than $90,000 annually, the data show.

In the San José area, Foothill College graduates of two-year allied health programs — including dental hygiene, diagnostic medical sonography and respiratory therapy — earn a median salary of $133,485. As a San José high school student, Emily Kong was interested in interior design but a career match quiz indicated dental hygiene would be a good fit — and offered far higher pay. She enrolled in Foothill, bypassing the nerve-wracking college admissions process that agonized her friends; temporary agencies are guaranteeing dental hygienists at least $550 a day, she said.

Registered nursing graduates from three L.A. County community colleges — Los Angeles Southwest, Los Angeles City and Cerritos — all make $100,000 or more four years after graduation. In other fields, graduates of two-year programs in fire protection at Santa Ana College and electrical and power transmission installation at L.A. Trade-Tech earn more than $95,000 annually.

In contrast, the lowest-paid recipients of bachelor's degrees in California tend to be those in music and the arts. Graduates in drama, theater and stagecraft from USC, UC Berkeley and UC Irvine make less than $30,000 annually, according to the federal data.

But many students still pursue fields they know won't make them rich but fire their passions. At UC Berkeley, even as demand skyrockets for data and computer science, interest has also surged in music, art practice and film and media — which are recording double-digit increases in students majoring in those fields.

Wilson Wang, a fourth-year Berkeley student from China, started out as a bioengineering major on a premed track. But as he realized the difficulties for international students to get into U.S. medical schools, he began pondering options — and found a new passion after taking a class about Chinese film auteurs. He switched to a film and media major — even though his parents, both doctors, "freaked out for a second." They've come around to support him.

Wang is picking up a second major in environmental economics and policy just in case film doesn't pay the bills. But he feels that the creativity and critical thinking he's developing through his film major will prove valuable to a future employer. "It's a cliche, but I'm following my heart," he said.

Jacob Li Rosenberg, a Berkeley undergraduate, started off with architecture, a major he believed would be useful in the job market. But he soon became captivated by art classes and the creative freedom they offered; he changed his majors to art practice and sociology. The multidisciplinary artist created an installation last year featuring sewn textiles, photography, interviews and sculptures that honored his Chinese and Jewish heritages, along with Native people and immigrants.

Rosenberg figures he'll be able to live on $40,000 a year and is prepared to cobble together grants, teaching gigs, art sales and whatever else it takes to make his budget. He said art offers rich and intangible rewards.

"I find a lot of happiness and joy when I can use my art to support my communities, my friends, my families, and really do meaningful work," he said. "It's a very cliche thing, but money doesn't buy happiness."

Calderon, meanwhile, doesn't regret his decision to drop plans for a four-year degree in favor of a trade as a pole lineman. His education was free, thanks to federal and state financial aid. The work, which involves building and maintaining electrical power systems often atop 35-foot poles, has given him pride of accomplishment. He's gotten in shape, mastered marketable skills and is set to begin a path to financial prosperity.

"There's more than just going through a four-year," he said. "Be a little more open to trade school. Give it a chance."

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Some couples getting hitched without going deep in debt

Photographs by DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

ANA SORIANO and Luis Moreno seal their marriage with a kiss at the Old Brown House, an affordable wedding chapel in Highland Park. The couple tied the knot for free June 10, the day of the chapel's grand opening.

PRISCILLA Mendoza, with daughter Itzcalli, helps future sister-in-law Ana Soriano try on a veil at the Old Brown House. It provides dresses and accessories.

[**Weddings,** from A1]

close to $50,000 on weddings, but they wanted to prioritize saving for a down payment on a home. And being inclined to avoid the spotlight, they liked the prospect of skipping the pressure of a big gathering.

They had settled on a backyard ceremony until the groom's sister saw something on Facebook about the Old Brown House, a wedding chapel in Highland Park that was recently opened by a couple who, for years, officiated free weddings at Burning Man. Before the pandemic reorganized their lives and priorities, Soriano said, she felt some pressure to have a larger, more traditional wedding — but this had been so much better.

"Plan B is now Plan A for a lot of people," said Connie Jones-Steward, a Los Angeles wedding officiant, who said the demand for small ceremonies has remained high since restrictions were lifted.

Largely gone are the days of Zoom weddings and socially distanced outdoor ceremonies, but some of the other pared-down celebrations that were once a pandemic necessity are now increasingly a top choice.

Some of the lexicon popularized during the shutdowns — "micro-wedding" and "minimony," the portmanteau of mini and ceremony — still dominates the bridal blogosphere, and hundreds of companies have cropped up to cater to tiny gatherings.

Google searches for "elopement" — a term whose definition has evolved in recent years, to suggest a small, destination wedding more than something furtive — are even higher now than during the first wave of pandemic shutdowns. A survey conducted by a diamond company a few months before the pandemic found that more than 90% of millennials said they would consider eloping. Their top reason? Saving money.

Jones-Steward — who offers a beach elopement package starting at $399 — keeps in touch with many of the couples who eloped during the pandemic and learned that some who originally planned to have another big ceremony down the road ultimately decided against it, realizing they were grateful to have avoided the stress and cost. These days, she said, many of her Gen Z and younger millennial clients prioritize saving for travel and a down payment on a house.

"They'd rather have this quickie ceremony," she said, "and spend the money on a world cruise for a honeymoon."

And if marital longevity is your goal, there's evidence that's a good call.

A pair of economists surveyed more than 3,000 people who were or had been married and found that those who spent $1,000 or less on their wedding were significantly less likely to get divorced than many couples who had spent more. Going on a honeymoon, however, correlated with a longer marriage.

One of the study's authors, Hugo Mialon, an Emory University economics professor, said he was inspired to conduct the study, in part, by ads he'd seen on TV as a child from De Beers, the company that introduced the slogan "A diamond is forever" in an attempt to boost sales after the Great Depression.

The expensive-crystals-equal-everlasting-love messaging proved wildly successful for the company, which, in another advertising campaign decades later, used an image of a beautiful, pouty woman to help shape cultural expectations around how much suitors should spend on a ring.

"You can't look at Jane and tell me she's not worth 2 months' salary," it read. "I mean just look at her."

::

The Old Brown House, which looks just like it sounds, sits on a fairly quiet stretch of York Boulevard, across the street from a cannabis dispensary that was once a Pizza Hut.

Decorated on the inside with vintage furniture and a pump organ, the chapel held its grand opening on the second Saturday in June — the brain- and love child of owners Tess Sweet and Dan Gambelin.

The couple met at Burning Man in 2009 and returned several years after that to perform free wedding ceremonies to honor the festival's tradition of giving. They lent out thrifted gowns, gifted rubber rings and devised a Mad Libs-style format so people could quickly write personalized vows. They married more than 300 couples in ceremonies that, although not legally binding, were often profound.

Sweet, 51, and Gambelin, 54, both faced career crossroads early in the pandemic, and as they reflected on the intense joy packed into that week at the festival, they wondered if there was a way to sprinkle that throughout the year.

"We both retired from worlds that broke our hearts," Sweet said. "This is a new chapter."

For more than 20 years, Sweet worked to establish herself as a filmmaker, but she grew increasingly discouraged by the industry and how so much hinges on whom you know — and how,

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Los Angeles Times
The state of what's next.

as soon as you've finished one project, people immediately ask what's next.

At the end of 2020, Gambelin retired early with post-traumatic stress disorder after more than two decades as a firefighter and paramedic in San Mateo, Calif., a job he loved but one that slowly ate away at him. He began to disassociate, stamping down devastating images seared into his mind — body parts in a field at the scene of a car accident, the terror in the eyes of a child whose little brother died of sudden infant death syndrome.

He had been there for the worst days of so many people's lives. It gnawed at him that, even though they surely didn't remember him, his presence, his face, had been associated with deep fear and despair.

Officiating weddings, he realized, offered the exact opposite; now he was the stranger playing a small part in one of the happiest days of their lives.

Using money they'd saved from selling their home in the Santa Cruz Mountains several years earlier, the couple bought the chapel in 2021. It was painted white at the time and decorated with signs that the previous owners used to advertise their tax and notary services, as well as weddings and divorces.

Sweet and Gambelin — who both got ordained online through the Universal Life Church to perform weddings — spent two years renovating the place themselves and, in April, did a test run of sorts officiating the wedding of Hattie Brown, one of Sweet's relatives.

She and her now-husband, Daniel Saavedra, who works as a chef at a restaurant downtown, got engaged a few months before the pandemic and knew they wanted a simple ceremony — something affordable, lighthearted and poignant to honor the relationship they'd built since meeting a decade ago while working at Yosemite National Park.

> 'I didn't want the whole bells and whistles wedding. That's a lot of money that we don't have and a lot of work.'
>
> — **Hattie Brown**, on why she and her now-husband, Daniel Saavedra, chose to get married at the Old Brown House

"I didn't want the whole bells and whistles wedding," said Brown, who stays home to care for the couple's 6-month-old daughter. "That's a lot of money that we don't have and a lot of work."

On a bright Saturday in April, about 20 of their family members gathered at the Old Brown House. Before they walked down the aisle, everyone took a shot of tequila. Two of Saavedra's brothers, who initially had scheduling conflicts, surprised them by showing up, and Brown carried a bouquet that included a picture of her father, who died last year. During the ceremony, Saavedra recalled looking over at Brown and then up at the strings of lights lining the ceiling of the chapel.

"Almost like I was in a fairy tale," he said.

At the grand opening, the chapel offered free ceremonies all day and the event stretched until after dark.

Of the 12 couples who had ceremonies, which were split between the indoor chapel and outdoors, some had brought their marriage license paperwork and others either planned to get their official license later or had the ceremony as a symbolic union but didn't intend to file paperwork with the state. A few other couples, including the owners, had recommitment ceremonies.

Sweet and Gambelin are still nailing down specifics on pricing but plan to offer weddings for around $600 — less than the price of a new iPhone and less than a third of the average rent for a studio apartment in L.A. The couple added that they intend to never turn someone away because of cost, describing it as a "nontraditional, nonconformist, sliding-scale wedding chapel."

To keep some of the pop-up energy of the weddings at Burning Man, they've decided not to book things more than a month or two in advance.

"It's like going to Vegas," Sweet said. "Elope to Highland Park."

Early in the grand opening event, people began to huddle near a table decorated with wildflowers in a mason jar and a yellow legal pad. Soriano and Moreno, the couple who met on Myspace, were the first names on the list.

Sweet welcomed them and tugged Soriano into a shed filled with loaner dresses and other accessories. Soriano clipped a layered veil into her hair, tearing up when she looked in the mirror. The officiant, Kaibrina Sky Buck, one of Sweet's longtime friends, popped in to introduce herself and asked what descriptors to use to refer to the couple.

"Husband and wife is good," Soriano said.

"OK, cool!" Buck said. "Let's do this!"

An hour later, another couple, Jen Ballera and William Ascencio, who live two doors down from the event space, had their ceremony in the indoor chapel. Gambelin, who officiated, asked them to read from the Mad Libs-style vows they'd filled out 10 minutes earlier.

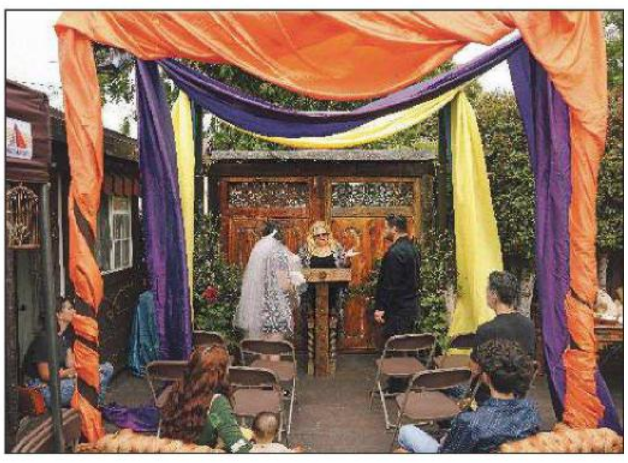
"My dearest Jen," the groom said, "together with you, my life is amazing, fun and damn near perfect."

"My dearest Will," she told him, "together with you, my life is full of music and joy and love."

After they kissed, Crazy Town's iconic track spilled out of the boombox — "Come my lady, come, come my lady. You're my butterfly, sugar, baby" — and Ballera lifted her eyebrows in excitement, bursting into laughter. The song had been popular when they were growing up and always had a way of following them.

"Did you ask them to play this?" she asked. Ascencio shook his head.

Sweet had picked it out — a staple on her playlist of favorite celebration songs.



DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

THE WEDDING of Ana Soriano and Luis Moreno at the Old Brown House took less than 10 minutes.

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Trump's love of talking may hobble his defense

Fox News interview on classified records case may give more ammo to prosecutors.

By Eric Tucker

Andrew Harnik Associated Press

THE FORMER PRESIDENT has long spoken openly about his legal issues, probably against his lawyers' advice and sometimes to his own detriment. But the stakes are far greater as he faces multiple federal charges.

WASHINGTON — Criminal defendants are routinely advised to avoid commenting on pending charges against them. But Donald Trump, the former president and current White House hopeful, is no ordinary defendant.

In his first televised interview since his arraignment earlier this month on federal charges, the former president acknowledged that he'd delayed turning over boxes of documents despite being asked to do so; drew factually incorrect parallels between his case and classified document probes concerning other politicians; and claimed he hadn't actually had the Pentagon attack plan that the indictment says he had boasted about to others.

Those comments — like any remarks made by a defendant about an ongoing case — could complicate his lawyers' work, potentially precluding defenses they might have wanted to make, or boxing them in to certain arguments to avoid contradicting his claims.

The interview could also give the Justice Department compelling, and admissible, insight into Trump's state of mind as the case advances, allowing prosecutors to preemptively attack defenses he might intend to invoke.

"If my client went on TV and said everything that he said, I might have fainted," said Jeffrey Jacobovitz, a criminal defense lawyer in Washington.

The interview with Fox News aired just hours after a federal magistrate judge granted a Justice Department request for a protective order in the case to prevent public disclosure of evidence provided to the Trump team through the information-sharing discovery process — though nothing said in the interview seemed to run afoul of that directive.

Speaking out in the interview followed Trump's long-running pattern of commenting openly about legal matters. His comments have sometimes been to his own detriment.

Just last month, E. Jean Carroll — the advice columnist who won a $5-million sexual abuse and defamation award against Trump — sued for an additional $10 million or more over remarks he made after the verdict.

The stakes are even higher in a criminal case.

"You typically say to your clients, 'Don't make any statements. Direct people to me,'" said Richard Serafini, a Florida defense lawyer and former Justice Department official. "Just politely decline to make any comment about the case and let your attorney do any commenting for you."

A Trump campaign spokesperson did not immediately respond to questions about the interview.

The indictment filed by Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith charges Trump with illegally retaining classified government documents at Mar-a-Lago, his Florida estate and resort, and obstructing government efforts to recover them — including by asking an aide to relocate boxes before investigators were to arrive, and by suggesting that his lawyer hide or destroy documents demanded in a grand jury subpoena.

In the interview Monday night, Trump repeatedly denied wrongdoing.

But even in his denials, he seemed to undercut potential arguments from his lawyers that he was not intimately involved in the handling of the boxes, or that he had moved quickly to cooperate with demands to give the records back.

He asserted incorrectly that he was entitled under the Presidential Records Act to take the documents with him from the White House, and acknowledged that he'd delayed returning the boxes because he wanted to remove personal belongings that investigators say were commingled with the government files. He suggested he had been too busy to sort through them.

Asked about the indictment's allegation that he told his lawyer to tell the Justice Department that a subpoena for records had been fully complied with, he said, "Before I send boxes over, I have to take all of my things out. These boxes were interspersed with all sorts of things: golf shirts, clothing, pants, shoes. There were many things."

"He's essentially admitting that he knew the documents were there," Jacobovitz said. "That's inconsistent with saying, 'It was planted there.' "

One of Trump's Republican presidential rivals, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, said the procrastination excuse, in his mind, served as proof of obstruction of justice, given that Trump is alleged to have instructed his lawyers to certify to the Justice Department that all of the classified materials had been returned.

"It appears to me ... as a former prosecutor, that he admitted obstruction of justice on the air last night," Christie said Tuesday. "I can tell you this: His lawyers this morning are jumping out of whatever window they're near."

In addition, Trump denied the Justice Department's characterization of a core allegation in the indictment — that during a July 2021 meeting at his golf club in Bedminster, N.J., he showed off a Pentagon "plan of attack" and told others that it was "secret" information that he could no longer declassify because he wasn't president anymore.

In the interview, Trump denied that he had been holding a specific document.

"There was no document. That was a massive amount of papers and everything else, talking about Iran and other things," he told Fox News host Bret Baier. "And it may have been held up or may not, but that was not a document. I didn't have a document, per se. There was nothing to declassify. These were newspaper stories, magazine stories and articles."

The episode is detailed in the indictment based on an audio recording obtained by prosecutors, who may call people who witnessed the Bedminster incident to testify about the document or documents Trump shared.

But as is always the case with Trump, the court of public opinion matters too.

Well-practiced in legal delay tactics, he could hope to drag out the proceeding so long that a trial does not conclude until after the November 2024 election.

Judge Aileen Cannon has set the trial's start date for this Aug. 14, though delays are likely.

> 'It appears ... that he admitted obstruction of justice on the air. ... His lawyers this morning are jumping out of whatever window they're near.'
>
> —Chris Christie, former New Jersey governor and a 2024 GOP presidential rival

Tucker writes for the Associated Press.

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BUSINESS

Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

DAMON LAWNER sold secret society Snctm in 2019 after six torrid years that took a toll. "I don't want that to be me anymore."

The sex parties were fun, but he's got other love interests

Snctm founder lifts the velvet curtain on plans for a naughty new restaurant

By Andrea Chang

Damon Lawner used to throw legendary sex parties in L.A. as the founder of Snctm, an exclusive club for the super-rich. To get in, members had to apply in advance, submit photos of themselves, pay up to $75,000 in annual fees and answer such questions as, "What most turns you on?"

In 2019, he sold the secret society for $1 million after six hedonistic years that cost him his 15-year marriage and strained his relationships with his two young daughters.

"I became Damon: the founder and owner of Snctm," he said last month, sitting on a squashy white love seat in the sparsely furnished two-bedroom Hollywood apartment where he now lives. "I don't want that to be me anymore."

Recently Lawner became co-founder and co-owner of Puzzle, a members-only French restaurant scheduled to open this summer in West Hollywood. To get in, diners have to apply in advance, list their net worth, pay up to $10,000 in annual fees and answer such questions as, "Describe a dream night at Puzzle where anything you desire can be enjoyed."

If that sounds a lot like Snctm, Lawner assured me that the dinner parties won't be like his sex parties. Think of Puzzle, he said, as more like foreplay than the full thing.

Then he mentioned the curtains.

Five of the restaurant's 15 tables will be tucked into cozy arched alcoves and outfitted with thick jewel-toned velvet curtains that can be drawn shut for privacy. That raises the obvious question.

"I have to tell people they cannot have sex. Like, I have to tell them that," Lawner, 52, said. "Then the question becomes, well, what happens behind those curtains and what are grown-ups allowed to do in their own little private space? Am I going to peek my head in? No."

Masquerade masks and monthly soirees

By the time Lawner moved into the Snctm party house — a 6,500-square-foot seven-bedroom with a built-in sex swing and a stripper pole down the hill from the Playboy Mansion — he was already being called the next Hugh Hefner. If anything, his nights were even wilder.

A former model and nightclub promoter, Lawner had started Snctm in 2013 with the intention of creating a sexual utopia where the wealthy could shed their inhibitions and explore their desires through erotic theater.

About a hundred people — a mix of paying members of both sexes, special celebrity guests and women admitted free on the basis of "aesthetic appeal" — would arrive at his extravagant monthly soirees in masquerade masks and black-tie attire or lingerie. The clothes typically did not stay on long.

At the first gathering, held in an underground nightclub in Beverly Hills, Lawner quickly discovered that many pleasure-seeking attendees didn't want to just watch the performers have sex: They wanted to get in on the action — with the dates they came with, or with others they had just met, often at the same time, in full view of everyone else.

Lawner encouraged it. Although cameras were banned from the events, word got out in elite circles and soon Snctm became the free-love private playground of A-list actors, rock stars, chief executives, city officials and run-of-the-mill millionaires.

The parties were in such high demand that Lawner went on to host them in New York, Miami and Moscow. Showtime made a 2017 docuseries called "Naked Snctm." Other luxurious sex clubs with application forms and masquerade themes began to furtively crop up around town.

Gwyneth Paltrow, Steven Tyler and Bill Maher were among the attendees spotted at Snctm events; reps for all three did not respond to requests for comment. On Tuesday, after Hunter Biden reached a plea deal with federal prosecutors, Lawner said on Instagram that the president's son had once been a Snctm member.

"I canceled his membership after 1 party because he's a scumbag," he wrote in a since-deleted post.

That led to Lawner getting banned from Snctm the next day.

"We neither confirm nor deny the identities of our attendees," a Snctm spokeswoman wrote in an email to The Times. "Furthermore, we uphold a strict code of conduct, and any infringement leads to a lifetime ban. Please note that Mr. Lawner's membership has been revoked, effective immediately."

In response, Lawner said: "I knew that the consequences could be me not being part of Snctm anymore, but I was willing to take that risk."

David Winkler, a member from 2017 to 2019, called his two years with the club "a great adventure."

"I'd always been a pretty shy, sexually vanilla person, and suddenly I was doing things that I'd previously been uncomfortable with. It opened me up for the better."

Lawner's gift for handpicking captivating and open-minded partygoers was central to Snctm's appeal, said Winkler, 59, a film producer and author from Westwood.

"Damon was so selective about who he let into the doors — it wasn't some cheap sex party where everybody brings a date and you automatically swap," he said. "There's a very big difference between a sex party and a Snctm party."

But it wasn't all boundless ecstasy for Lawner, who was $1 million in debt when he watched "Eyes Wide Shut" and came up with the idea for Snctm. He indulged readily in everything on offer at the parties, making a lot of love and money in the process, but the steamy nights, heavy drinking and hard drugs took their toll.

"I lost myself in that world," he said during a visit last month at the under-construction Puzzle, a tiny, windowless space set behind an unmarked black door on the Sunset Strip.

"I just wanted to be loved and I wanted to be special and I wanted people to think highly of me because I didn't feel that way about myself, and Snctm gave me that in spades," he continued. "It elevated me to this place, but it also was a very empty and false thing."

His older daughter, 17-year-old Olivia, was in the neighborhood with a friend and stopped by. She recalled being bullied in middle school because of Snctm — "It was really not the thing you want to see your dad doing" — and worried about him constantly, making him promise to get rid of the club by the time she entered high school.

"My perception of him at the time was, like, completely changed and almost ruined from who I grew up with," she said. "It affected me so much."

Lawner said an aimless period of regret and repair followed his sale of Snctm four years ago, an all-cash deal with a group of investors led by a New York-based member. He made amends with his family, got "California sober," adopted the spiritual moniker "Father Damon," tried to reconcile with his ex-wife and, when that didn't work, pledged his future relationships would be monogamous.

Lawner, who made as much as $1.7 million annually when he owned Snctm, also needed to find a new job.

"The last many years, I haven't known what I was going to do — I just wasn't feeling inspiration for anything," he said. "How do you follow up what I did?"

At first, Lawner hosted some private parties and nightclub events in L.A. and London. He considered teaching "tantric love and soul-gazing" workshops for couples. A few months ago, he was hyping a grander members-only sex club called Secret Garden, "an exclusive society where affluent individuals are met with beautiful garden girls and experiences."

Secret Garden memberships were NFT-based and priced from $100,000 to $1 million. Lawner didn't sell even one.

"I put the word out and not much traction came from it," he said. "At the end of the day, sitting here in this moment, it's not something I want to pursue — creating a private island party for billionaires and what that entails. That doesn't turn me on."

None of his other business ideas panned out either, leading to his latest professional pivot: "All of my new endeavors," he announced recently on Instagram, "are about love."

'A little hideaway for people who can afford it'

Puzzle will be a personal test for Lawner, whose brand is built on sex and who is by nature prone to temptation. Velvet curtains aside, he is excited by the potential for a restaurant that is as much about sensuality as it is about food.

"It's our little hideaway for people who can afford it," he said as we made our way through the dining room, walking carefully over piles of sawdust while a construction crew pounded away overhead, "and people who are attractive enough to join them."

He has already sold three-quarters of the memberships for Puzzle, including all but one of the 11 most expensive Emerald-level slots, priced at $10,000 a year (23 Black-level memberships cost $5,000 and 75 Gold-level memberships cost $2,500). The tiers correspond to priority access for reservations; diners will have to pay for food and drinks on top of the annual fees.

> 'I just wasn't feeling inspiration for anything. How do you follow up what I did?'
>
> — Damon Lawner, on his pivot from Snctm

Elena, an Emerald member who declined to provide her last name so she could freely discuss her sexual proclivities, applied in February after she saw one of Lawner's Instagram posts about the restaurant.

The fashion blogger from Hidden Hills said she was intrigued by its promise of intimacy and excellent food (a to-be-announced French chef is relocating from a Michelin-starred restaurant to run the kitchen, Lawner said). She brushed off the steep price point: "I want top-of-the-line everything," she said. "You want the best, you have to spend extra money."

Elena anticipates going to Puzzle every week or two for "a great dinner with other members, talking about our fantasies and exploring other people's dreams and thoughts."

"And if I get to lick caviar off somebody's boobs, then I'm going to do that," the 42-year-old said. "That would be a great night."

Lawner has teamed with three business partners to open Puzzle, leaving the fine-dining modernist menu, opulent decor and service details to the others.

His focus, as it was at Snctm, is on guest list curation and entertainment.

On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, Puzzle will transform into a neon-lit nightclub from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Lawner expects to be a fixture for the after-hours festivities, as well as for the PJs-and-lingerie Sunday brunches he's planning.

He's currently assembling a roster of "Single Ladies," a special complimentary membership that "gives the most gorgeous ladies in L.A. full access to our private club for drinks on the house and dancing all evening to the best DJs," according to Puzzle's website. Single Lady applicants are required to submit their Instagram handles for Lawner to peruse.

"For better or worse," he said, "beautiful women make the world go 'round."

Thomas Fuks, one of the partners in Puzzle, brought Lawner onto the project at the start of the year. The two friends first met shortly after Lawner had sold Snctm and was working the nightclub circuit in Hollywood, bringing women over to tables crowded with big spenders.

"I sat with him and I told him, 'I think you're better than that,' " said Fuks, who also owns Mediterranean restaurant Members in Hollywood. "He's such a creative person; he has so much talent. I said, 'You shouldn't do this promoting, you should really create and bring your universe and take over the night.' "

The result is boundary-pushing Puzzle. The team is trusting Lawner to "make it hot without being trashy," Fuks said, with the hope that like-minded customers will be amenable to the restaurant's provocative, don't-ask-don't-tell premise.

"We're still, to be honest with you, trying to figure out what we can and cannot do. It's kind of tricky," he said. "It's essential to make sure everybody's on the same vibration and page and vision inside the room."

Lawner's other new love venture is the more overtly named Sex Weed, his high-end cannabis line of pre-rolled joints; the strains were all selected — after many enjoyable nights of trial-and-error testing, he said with a sly smile — to heighten sexual pleasure.

Sex Weed "frees men and women of ego and performance that gets in the way of truly transcendent sexuality," the company's website asserts. It will be released at dispensaries around L.A. in a few weeks, priced at $100 for a box of five.

"I'm hand-rolling rose petals and wrapping them in freaking gold leaf by hand," Lawner said, opening a glossy crocodile-skin-patterned Sex Weed box and removing a delicate fuschia pink joint a few days after the Puzzle visit. "I mean I'm not, but the people that are doing it are. It's very labor intensive. I can't charge $40."

To help fund his new businesses, he sold the 1965 Shelby GT350R that he bought for $250,000 during the height of his Snctm reign, making a $100,000 profit.

Lawner's life these days is considerably more modest. After moving out of the Holmby Hills Snctm Mansion in 2017, he bounced in and out of hotels and rented homes before signing a one-year, $3,000-a-month lease in March for his Hollywood apartment, where he lives above a waxing salon and a pizzeria.

He owns practically no furniture: The dining area is empty; the living room consists of a marble coffee table, a large teddy bear and a pair of marshmallowy love seats with a matching armchair; his bedroom is bare save for a mattress and television on the floor beside a cluster of potted plants. Nearly everything is white, including the thin, calf-length tunic that Lawner is wearing with no underwear.

"I've been a millionaire multiple times over and lost it all multiple times over," Lawner said between languorous pulls of a Sex Weed joint. "I'm on the path to being a millionaire again. Now the question is: Do I repeat the same cycle?"

That's something his family and friends are wondering, too, as the charismatic playboy reemerges onto the scene.

"Damon to me is like the modern-day sex Jesus — I kind of feel like he sacrificed himself for the greater good of creating a culture for people that was needed, especially in a city like Los Angeles," said Claudia Fijal, one of the first women hired by Lawner to work as an "atmosphere model" at Snctm when it debuted. "I mean, he risked his marriage, he flipped his world upside down."

Despite Lawner's efforts to tame his ways, "at the end of the day a lion is a lion," said Fijal, now 34 and living in Las Vegas.

"It's such a shame because he has this internal conflict all the time," she said. "Like on one hand you're talking about monogamy, and now you're talking about velvet curtains and handing out condoms."

Winkler, the former Snctm member, said he's undecided about whether to join Puzzle now that he's in a happy relationship and "grew out of that lifestyle."

"I'm guessing that anything Damon does will eventually turn into sex," he said. "As eccentric as he is, he really is a kind man who just wants love and wants intimacy. Until midnight."

Lawner knows he has to work hard to keep his addictive personality in check. Although he continued to attend Snctm parties regularly after he sold the club, he said he has been more mindful about his late-night extracurricular activities.

"Needing to be loved and needing to be admired — those things have driven me to places that I shouldn't have gone," he said. "I have something in me that, if I don't attend to it, can be very self-destructive. And so I just have to admit that and stay on a good path."

MONEY TALK

Solo agers: Planning for single, childless adults

Books and other tips offer a road map to those who fear ending up old, alone and incapacitated.

By Liz Weston

Dear Liz: My wife and I have no children to take care of us in our old age, and I am scared to death regarding what will happen to the surviving spouse when one of us dies or we become incapacitated. We are 69 and 67 respectively and I think a lot of "boomers" are facing this issue. Any thoughts?

Answer: Consider getting a copy of the book "Essential Retirement Planning for Solo Agers: A Retirement and Aging Roadmap for Single and Childless Adults" by certified retirement coach Sara Zeff Geber.

The NextAvenue site has a wealth of information on how to prepare for aging and incapacity if you don't have kids or don't have ones you can rely on.

Geber provides far too much valuable information to summarize here, but one important strategy is to create a strong social network. Not only can this combat social isolation and loneliness — which are as dangerous to your health as smoking — but these folks can help look out for you and vice versa.

Andrew Lichtenstein Corbis via Getty Images

A WOMAN spending the Christmas season alone at her assisted living complex in Florida. One retirement coach urges solo agers to build a strong social network.

If your social circle is small or you're out of the habit of making new friends, consider activities that put you in contact with others such as volunteering, taking classes or joining exercise groups. Also check out the Village to Village Network, a nonprofit that helps people age in place by encouraging groups of neighbors to help one another with rides, services and activities.

Living close to others and in areas with robust social services also can make a huge difference for solo agers.

Another option, if you have the means, is to consider a continuing care retirement community that allows independent living to start, with assisted living and sometimes nursing home care as needed.

Every adult needs an advance healthcare directive, such as the free ones at Prepare for Your Care. These documents allow someone you trust to make health decisions if you should become incapacitated. It's OK to name your spouse, but you also should have at least one and preferably two or more backups.

Filling one out can help you think deeply about the people currently in your life whom you can trust with this task, and may encourage you to deepen those ranks if they've gotten a little thin.

Roth IRA withdrawal rules

Dear Liz: In a recent column you mentioned that you can take money out of a Roth IRA at age 59½ without a penalty. I believe a Roth IRA must be in force for at least five years before you can take money out, regardless of age. Is this correct?

Answer: At any time and at any age, you can withdraw an amount equal to what you contributed to a Roth IRA. So if you've contributed $5,000 a year for four years to a Roth, you can withdraw $20,000 without worrying about taxes or penalties.

The five-year rule kicks in when you start to withdraw earnings. You can avoid both taxes and penalties on these withdrawals if the account was established at least five years ago and you're 59½ or older. If the account isn't at least 5 years old, you must pay taxes on the earnings withdrawn but don't have to pay the 10% penalty if you're 59½ or older.

A five-year rule also applies to Roth conversions. Each conversion or rollover you make is subject to a separate five-year waiting period.

Capital gains from home sales

Dear Liz: I thought that if you occupied a home as your principal residence for two of the last five years that you could exclude capital gains of up to $250,000 if single or $500,000 if married. Someone recently told me that this has been changed to a pro-rata calculation.

Answer: That someone was wrong. The pro-rata calculation applies to people who have not owned and lived in the home for at least two years but who meet other criteria for a partial exemption. The percentage of gains you can exclude from your income is based on the percentage of the two-year requirement you fulfilled.

Let's say you had to sell the home after a year because your place of employment changed to one at least 50 miles away. You could exclude capital gains of up to 50% of the exemption amount — $125,000 if single or $250,000 if married — from your income.

Liz Weston, Certified Financial Planner, is a personal finance columnist for NerdWallet. Questions may be sent to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon, No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or by using the "Contact" form at asklizweston.com.

PERSONAL FINANCE

How to shop safely, avoid buyer remorse on social media

Limited-time offers and livestreams make it easy to overspend. Follow these tips for a better experience.

By Kimberly Palmer

After Ziwei Cong bought sweatpants that caught her eye during a livestream shopping event on social media, she was disappointed when they arrived and didn't fit well.

"It's very easy for me to become irrational during these kinds of shopping events," said the assistant professor of marketing at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. She said the hosts can be very persuasive and hook you with limited-time offers to trigger impulse purchases.

Social shopping is booming. That's when you make a purchase through social media sites, which sometimes incorporate livestreaming events with influencers.

About 47% of U.S. consumers say they've made a purchase on social media, and 39% say they would do so again, according to 2022 data in a report released in April by the market intelligence agency Mintel.

"Shopping on social media has really taken off more with younger consumers. They're on their phones more and on social media more often, so it's easier to purchase via social media when they find a product they like," said Katie Hansen, senior retail and e-commerce analyst at Mintel and author of the report.

YouTube
Facebook
Venmo
Messenger

Jenny Kane Associated Press

SOCIAL SHOPPING lures potential customers with limited runs, discounts and live events, experts say.

Social shopping comes with risks, most notably overspending, as Cong's experience illustrates. The excitement, discounts and limited quantities can lead to unplanned and regrettable purchases.

Shopping experts suggest the following guideposts when engaging in social shopping.

It's good to 'take a beat' before buying

Social shopping easily leads to overspending, Cong said, because it's so engaging. "It's a more direct and interactive way to communicate with consumers, and it boosts the perceived experience of the product," she said, especially if a shopper sees their favorite influencer using the product.

The flash sales and limited promotions contribute to that rush to purchase, as does the "herding effect" from seeing other people leave comments and express their desire to buy, Cong said.

To resist those temptations, shopping expert Trae Bodge from TrueTrae.com suggested slowing down and stepping away from the screen.

"Make sure it's something you want. The sense of excitement and urgency might make you buy something that you haven't properly vetted," Bodge said. "It's always good to take a beat."

Budgeting expert Andrea Woroch advised that if you see something appealing pop up in your feed, save the link to come back to later, after you take time to consider your budget.

"That will avoid any buyer's remorse," she said.

Look up reviews and return policies

Bodge also encouraged shoppers to check other websites for lower prices, look for coupons and leverage cash-back options that might be available outside of social shopping, such as at retailer or brand sites.

Woroch suggested checking customer reviews too.

"Do your homework like you would on another shopping site to make sure it's the quality you expect. A lot of people overlook that when they do social shopping," she said — one reason why the "what I ordered versus what I got" meme is so popular on social media.

In some cases, making returns for items purchased through social shopping can be more of a hassle, so it's worth checking the return policy in advance, Woroch said.

Don't overshare on your social media

Although social shopping can feel like a community experience, it's worth remembering that your public comments are visible to strangers, and it's important to keep personal details private, Bodge says.

"Don't overshare, and never put your credit card or address in the comments," she said.

Bodge also advised against leaving the social media platform to enter payment information on a third-party site, which could be a scam, and she encouraged people to use a credit card to make purchases for added fraud protection.

Woroch pointed out that phones will sometimes automatically connect to available public Wi-Fi networks, which can leave you vulnerable to hackers when you are sharing payment information online. She suggested avoiding social shopping on public Wi-Fi networks.

With those precautions in place, social shopping can be a positive experience for consumers, especially because it allows them to connect directly with brands, including those they might not have otherwise been exposed to through a traditional retailer, said Edward Fox, professor of marketing at Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business.

"It democratizes the commercial world and allows smaller brands to get a broader audience than they would otherwise," he said.

It gives consumers more choices too.

Palmer writes for personal finance website NerdWallet. This article was distributed by the Associated Press.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Turning office buildings into apartments will ease the housing crisis

Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

THE CROSBY apartments in L.A.'s Koreatown are at the site of the old Texaco office building.

California's many half-empty office buildings and vacant big-box stores may soon get new leases on life. Thanks to local and state efforts to loosen land-use laws, developers in California will soon find it much easier to convert commercial properties into apartments, condominiums and townhomes.

The change couldn't come at a better time.

Every week it seems there is more bad news from the commercial real estate sector. Owners of commercial high-rises in San Francisco and Los Angeles have defaulted on their loans, and an increasing number of office buildings throughout the state are considered "zombies" for being only half leased. Some recent high-profile exits — including mall giant Westfield's decision to walk away from its downtown San Francisco Centre — are a reminder that retail vacancies in many cities are still higher than before the pandemic.

But forget the urban doom loop talk. The moribund suburban strip malls and downtown office buildings present a tremendous opportunity for California to address one of its most pressing problems: the crippling shortage of housing that has driven up rents and home prices to unaffordable levels.

Most cities in California don't allow residential development in commercial zones, or they make land conversions so time-consuming and expensive that few developers bother. That's finally changing, and it will unlock property that has been off limits to housing.

Perhaps the biggest reform will come July 1 when Assembly Bill 2011 takes effect. The law, written by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), will fast-track approval to build 100% affordable housing on most properties zoned for retail, office or parking.

The law also gives expedited approval to projects with a mix of market-rate and affordable housing when they are located on four- to eight-lane commercial corridors. One analysis suggested underutilized commercial properties in Los Angeles County could accommodate 1.6 million housing units.

Jimmy Silverwood, president of Affirmed Housing, is planning to use AB 2011 to develop up to 200 affordable units on a 5-acre vacant commercial lot outside Sacramento. His firm, which specializes in building homes for low-income families, veterans and formerly homeless people, is also looking to acquire empty shopping centers surrounded by sprawling parking lots for development. The law, he said, is especially helpful because it exempts projects from the California Environmental Quality Act, giving developers certainty that they won't be held up by the threat of CEQA lawsuits.

AB 2011 is aimed at putting new residential construction on commercial lots. But there's also finally momentum to ease restrictions on adaptive reuse, particularly as more offices sit empty after the shift to remote work. Converting existing office and retail buildings makes a lot of sense. The projects can help inject new life into sleepy commercial centers, preserve local architectural history and character, and reduce the environmental impacts of new construction.

But adaptive reuse can be just as expensive as new construction, which is why the state budgeted $400 million over two years to encourage private adaptive reuse projects.

New bills this year include Assembly Bill 1532, which would fast-track office-to-housing conversions, if they include affordable units. Assembly Bill 529 aims to modernize state building codes to make it easier to convert office and retail buildings into housing. That's important.

It can be prohibitively expensive to upgrade a 30-, 40- or 50-year-old building to present-day standards. The state codes ought to give adaptive reuse projects more flexibility without sacrificing essential safety standards.

Los Angeles is a pioneer in adaptive reuse. The city's 1999 ordinance allowed developers to convert 1974-and-older buildings downtown. That produced 12,000 housing units in 15 years. Now the Planning Department is working on an ordinance to allow adaptive reuse citywide on properties older than 15 years. It's an overdue expansion of a successful program. Planners expect conversions of mid-rise office towers on the Westside and in the Valley, opening up communities that can be resistant to new housing.

It's a hopeful sign that local and state lawmakers have been willing to ease zoning laws to encourage redevelopment and adaptive reuse. California can't afford to let offices and strip malls sit empty when the need for housing is so great.

LETTERS

Kent Nishimura Los Angeles Times

REP. ADAM B. SCHIFF speaks with reporters outside the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday after House Republicans voted to censure the Burbank Democrat.

Disgraceful but on brand

Re "Schiff embraces censure by House Republicans," June 22

Just when you think that the House Republican majority has reached the highest level of hypocrisy, its members find a way to reach a higher echelon.

Rep. Anna Paula Luna (R-Fla.) justified her motion to censure Rep. Adam Schiff on the grounds that the Burbank Democrat misled the public regarding cooperation between the 2016 Trump campaign and Russian government agents. The facts, however, show that Trump campaign operatives were providing Russian agents with internal campaign polling.

Special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's investigation was unable to find evidence of coordination between the Trump campaign and the Russian government. It did find that the Trump campaign benefited from Russian efforts to help Trump win the presidency in 2016. So, it boils down to a matter of semantics. This is a far cry from misleading the public.

If Rep. Luna wishes to assume the mantle of defender of House ethics, then she should turn her attention to Rep. George Santos (R-N.Y.).

To a large extent, the fault for this Republican clown show in the House rests squarely on the shoulders of Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield). Instead of working on legislation to improve our lives, McCarthy allows his members to waste taxpayer money on frivolous investigations.

Let's grab our popcorn and watch the McCarthy clown show for another year-plus before the voters get their say.

Andrew C. Sigal, Valley Village

The rogue's gallery of divisive politicians may be headed by former President Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, but Schiff has now earned equal billing.

For only the 25th time in U.S. history, the House has censured one of its own members. As Schiff claims it as a "badge of honor," the causative partisanship is a stain on his character not to be ignored.

The dysfunction that permeates Washington and the nation's politics has at its core extreme partisanship. Moderate Democrats and Republicans are drowned out by those extremes, led by the likes of Trump, DeSantis and, now officially, Schiff.

Raymond Roth
Oceanside

::

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia called her Republican colleague Rep. Lauren Boebert of Colorado an obscenity on the House floor, and the Republican House censured Schiff?

We are truly down the rabbit hole.

Catherine Babington-Plake
Long Beach

Don't trash composting

Re "California can't afford to pause organics recycling law," editorial, June 20

I support your editorial on keeping the composting requirements in Senate Bill 1383, a state law passed in 2016.

I also echo CalRecycle Director Rachel Machi Wagoner's comment that pausing the program would be sending the wrong message to both the public and the organic recycling industry. Municipalities have had six years to put their plans in place, and some have taken real action.

Siting, permitting and building a compost facility in California is at minimum a five-year process. The state should find better ways for agencies to streamline their permitting processes, which would bring more facilities online faster and create more composting capacity.

For those municipalities that sat by the wayside, they should be mandated to provide an action plan on how they will tackle this issue. Yes, municipalities need additional funding to move faster. This would be the new carrot, but you still need to keep the stick in place.

California has always been the leader in environmental programs and combating climate change. Don't give up on SB 1383. Retool it and make it better.

Frank Franciosi
Raleigh, N.C.

The writer is executive director of the US Composting Council.

::

Thank you for the informative editorial on organic recycling. As a backyard composter, I've struggled with the "why" of the new L.A. city rules on organic waste, and your editorial helped.

I struggle, however, with one aspect of the city rules. Collecting organic material in a plastic bucket creates a huge mess that requires lots of precious water for cleaning.

I understand that (most) plastic bags don't decompose in the composting process, but last week I found bags at Costco that were marked as certified for home composting. If Los Angeles could better explain the "why" of its rules and allow home compostable bags, then those of us who want to make a difference would be more likely to be able to do so.

Steve Siegel
Valley Village

Who's poor and who's rich

Re "As Californians age, they are priced out of housing," column, June 20

I found Anita Chabria's column about a study of aging Californians being priced out of housing disturbing, moving and utterly disgraceful. Thankfully the study begins to move the conversation in the right direction, but aren't there some deeper questions we need to ask?

Why are we living under an economic system that's structured to force older people into homelessness even if they worked all their lives? Why do we accept a system that gives us a situation where "people working every day are living in cars"?

A successful hedge fund manager in this country can make billions of dollars while producing no real value for anyone. Meanwhile, teachers who nurture the future of humanity and farmworkers who produce the food we need to survive are struggling on the edge of poverty.

Isn't it time we outgrew the notion that the only available choices are to be ruled by greed-is-good casino capitalists or become Stalinist Russia? We need to start thinking about a workable economic system.

Mari Werner
Claremont

::

To quote the article, "As fast as we can pull people out of homelessness, the rent is too high and more and more people can't pay it."

One of the reasons this is so, especially for the elderly, is that the cost of housing is not in the consumer price index. So housing can rise by 4% each year (for apartments in rent-controlled housing) or by 10% (for apartments owned by real estate investment trusts), and Social Security payments don't increase because of that.

It's like a gigantic, financial meat grinder is chasing everyone receiving Social Security. Sooner or later, it's going to catch up with all of us.

Joan DaVanzo
Long Beach

What a tragedy can reveal

Re "5 aboard tourist sub are dead after 'catastrophic implosion,' " June 23

The sinking of the submersible Titan in the Atlantic Ocean and the social media reaction to it show just how petty and evil people can be.

Jon Schmid
La Mirada

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One more thing to prepare for — tsunamis

ROBIN ABCARIAN

THE RECENT tragedies at sea — the deaths of hundreds of migrants in the Mediterranean near Greece and the catastrophic implosion of the Titan submersible — are the stuff of nightmares. We instinctively comfort ourselves: I will never set foot in a submersible, my life will never be uprooted by war or pestilence.

We have little control, on the other hand, over natural tragedies.

Having grown up in Southern California, I've lived through major earthquakes, which is why I don't fear them as much as I probably should. After all, there are things we can do to lessen the toll of earthquakes. We bolt our foundations; we keep survival kits handy. In recent years, my neighborhood has been abuzz with the sounds of earthquake retrofitting.

With wildfires, there are also steps we can take to protect ourselves and our property. With hurricanes, we can board up our windows and flee. With tornadoes, we can take refuge in storm basements.

But honestly, there may not be much you can do to protect yourself from a tsunami. You can run to higher ground, but that assumes you know what's coming.

I hadn't added tsunamis to the stuff of my nightmares until the deadly Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 that took out houses, trains, people, whole towns in 14 countries around the Indian Ocean. It brought home in a visceral way that sometimes, there is simply no protection against the wrath of nature.

That particular catastrophe began as a 9.1 earthquake off the coast of Sumatra. It killed 230,000 people before it was over, a number almost too high to contemplate.

FLAMINGO
ANACORTES

BRYANT ANDERSON Associated Press

AN EARTHQUAKE in March 2011 in Japan triggered a tsunami that caused damage up and down the California coast, including in this Crescent City boatyard.

Sonali Deraniyagala, a London-based economist who was vacationing with her family at a Sri Lankan resort, was caught unawares. In "Wave," her bestselling 2013 memoir, she recounts the unbearable pain of losing her two young sons, husband and parents in the tsunami. She begins with a horrifying, surreal depiction of her confusion and struggle as she and her loved ones were washed away by waves as high as 30 feet. The terror has stayed with me.

This is why a few years ago, when I started noticing signs in my neighborhood — "Tsunami evacuation route" with an arrow pointing inland — I was shocked.

I live in a tsunami zone?

Well yes, as it turns out.

Emergency management professionals would like you to know that everyone along the edge of the West Coast is in a tsunami zone.

If you've spent any time near Los Angeles beaches in the last month or so, you may have seen billboards or bus shelter ads promoting tsunami awareness. The cartoon ads seem a bit silly: "Unprepared for a tsunami? Tsu-NOT-me!" (In Spanish, "Preparado para un tsunami? Tsúmate-A-mi!") But the point, say the people who are paid to worry about these things, is to raise public awareness.

"We're not trying to scare anybody," said Crisanta Gonzalez, chief of the Los Angeles Department of Emergency Management's community preparedness and engagement division. "We just want to start a conversation."

You can sign up for local emergency alerts at NotifyLA, and learn probably more than you ever wanted to know at Tsunamizone.org.

Joseph Riser, spokesman for the department, counted the five-week, $250,000 federally funded campaign, which ended last week, as a success because there were 10 times the number of new registrations for the alerts compared with a "normal, blue sky month."

For Los Angeles County in 2023, said Riser, the Federal Emergency Management Agency scores the risk of earthquakes at 100%, wildfires at 99% and tsunamis at 63%.

OK, so maybe tsunamis are not nearly as worrisome as the quakes and wildfires we know are inevitable, but 63% is not nothing. In the world of emergency management, said Gonzalez, "tsunamis are one of the better disasters." I guess that's reassuring?

According to the California Geological Survey, more than 150 tsunamis have hit our coast since 1800, though only a dozen or so have caused death or significant damage, most notably in 1964 when a 9.2 earthquake in Alaska generated 21-foot Pacific Ocean surges that crashed into Crescent City, killing 10 people and destroying most of the waterfront.

In March 2011, a tsunami generated by a 9.1 earthquake in Japan hit California 10 hours later. No one died, but the surging water caused $100 million in damage statewide.

"When there is an earthquake in one part of the world, like Japan, we start to pay attention in California," Gonzalez told me. Signing up for alerts, and understanding what to do if you get one, makes sense. In Venice, residents are told to go east as fast as they can, and probably on foot, because roadways are likely to be jammed.

Yet, as much warning as they get, scientists are not always able to predict the speed and amplitude of a tsunami.

As recently as January 2022, a volcano obliterated most of an island in Tonga, generating a wave that traveled 5,000 miles across the Pacific and caused damage up and down the California coast. Live-aboards in the Berkeley Marina were evacuated. Way past the Golden Gate, near Mill Valley, the tsunami damaged boats and docks in relatively sheltered Richardson Bay. At Central California's Oceano Dunes, sudden flooding caught campers unawares. And in Ventura, a Harbor Patrol boat capsized and docks were damaged from water-level rise and strong currents.

"Some people had to be rescued," said Rick Wilson, head of the California Geological Survey's tsunami program, in a recorded debriefing presented by the Earthquake Engineering Institute. "We always get surfers that try to surf the tsunami."

Because the 2022 tsunami was spawned by a volcanic eruption, said Wilson, the National Tsunami Warning Center was thrown for a loop. "Their forecasts are based on earthquakes," he said, so the predictions made by their computer models were not entirely reliable.

Oh and one other thing: Large meteors plunging into the ocean from outer space can also cause tsunamis.

As if we didn't already have enough to worry about.

@robinkabcarian

JUSTICE SAMUEL A. ALITO, JR. WAY

MEL EVANS Associated Press

HIS WAY or the highway? The Supreme Court justice was honored in his hometown, Hamilton, N.J.

What's eating Justice Alito?

By Leah Litman and Melissa Murray

IN AN INDIGNANT recent piece in the opinion pages of the Wall Street Journal, Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. vehemently defended his right to receive a free luxury vacation and offered America yet another window into his disturbing worldview. The bizarre episode was just the latest example of Alito's insistence on enjoying the country's respect even when he fails to act respectably. As the court's public standing plummets, Alito appears aggrieved that the public has the audacity to criticize him.

In the op-ed published Tuesday, Alito attempted to "prebut" a then-forthcoming ProPublica story detailing a lavish 2008 fishing trip he took as a guest of a hedge fund billionaire who has had a series of cases before the court. The billionaire, Paul Singer, flew the justice via private jet to Alaska, where they were hosted by yet another conservative megadonor at a fishing lodge.

Leonard Leo, a former leader of the Federalist Society and major force in the conservative legal movement, reportedly arranged the junket that allowed the justice to interact with moneyed interests with business before the court. And as the story noted, Alito did not recuse himself from cases involving Singer, at one point joining a majority decision in favor of the billionaire's cause.

In keeping with standard journalistic practice, ProPublica submitted questions to the justice before the story was published. But rather than answer them, Alito opted to bitterly and preemptively complain about the story in an ideologically friendly outlet.

This is an extreme reaction from a public official — even one who is about to receive some negative but accurate press. Alito does not dispute that he flew on a private jet and enjoyed a luxury fishing vacation in Alaska free of charge. He does, however, maintain that his seat on the jet would have gone to waste if he had flown commercial, that the lodge was "rustic" rather than luxurious and that any wine he was served couldn't possibly have cost $1,000 a bottle, as a member of Alito's group reportedly bragged.

But Alito's reaction is entirely consistent with the worldview he has revealed within and beyond his jurisprudence time and time again. Because even though Samuel Alito is a Supreme Court justice with lifetime tenure and all the power that position entails, he still wants more.

The justice seems to believe that he and the court are so thoroughly supreme that they must be free of even a whiff of public criticism. Alito demands perpetual public and professional affirmation — a safe space, if you will, where he is protected from microaggressions, bathed in praise and consistently depicted as reasonable and judicious regardless of whether he actually is. And when his reception falls short of that, he lashes out at his critics no matter who they are.

Recall his remarkable performance back in 2010 at President Obama's State of the Union address. After Obama criticized the court's Citizens United decision striking down long-standing restrictions on campaign contributions, the television cameras panned over to the justices, who typically remain impassive at such political events. But not Alito: As his colleagues sat silently, the cameras caught him going rogue, conspicuously shaking his head and mouthing the words, "Not true."

The criticism of that episode didn't dim Alito's ardor for insisting that other public officials must not question him. In a 2020 speech before the Federalist Society, he characterized an amicus brief filed by several U.S. senators as "bullying" the court.

The justice has also used his considerable platform to berate private citizens. In the same speech, he singled out a Harvard law professor who had written a blog post proclaiming that despite conservative domination of the federal courts, progressives had secured decisive victories on LGBTQ+ equality and other issues. Apparently triggered by the liberal scholar's impudence, Alito fired back, warning ominously, "It's not dark yet, but it's getting there."

In remarks delivered at the Notre Dame Law School in 2021, the justice decried an Atlantic article by journalist Adam Serwer as "false and inflammatory." In fact, the article accurately described the court's decision enforcing the notorious Texas law that effectively nullified Roe vs. Wade in one of the country's largest and most populous states. In the same speech, the justice dismissed public and scholarly criticism of the justices' increased use of the emergency or "shadow" docket as "unprecedented efforts to intimidate the court." In another speech last year, he mocked several foreign leaders for daring to criticize his opinion overruling Roe.

And in another Wall Street Journal piece styled as an "interview" earlier this year, the justice whined that the court was "being hammered daily" and that "nobody, practically nobody, is defending us."

It takes real cheek for a member of the Supreme Court to insist that he and the institution he serves are *entitled* to the public's good opinion even in the face of indefensible behavior and decisions. And Alito is not just any public official demanding praise. He is one tasked with making rules that govern the entire country, not just those who agree with him.

And yet this man who has penned fiery dissents in decisions securing equal rights for LGBTQ+ people and other minority groups is so thin-skinned that he can't brook a hint of dissent directed at him. The man who represents an institution charged with interpreting the 1st Amendment can't bear others exercising their free speech rights to criticize him. Instead, he uses his stature and appearances to take potshots at those bold enough to question an institution that, as we keep learning, is loath to observe rules or restrictions.

The conservative legal movement long defined itself in opposition to liberal judicial "imperialism." And yet it is Justice Alito, a prominent face of that project, who insists on the prerogatives of an emperor-king, among them unstinting general adulation and complete insulation from critique. It's no wonder the court's public standing is in trouble: Some of the justices seem to be letting the term "supreme" go to their heads.

The conservative who wrote fiery opinions against Roe and LGBTQ+ rights can't stand criticism for his free fishing trip or anything else.

LEAH LITMAN is a professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School. MELISSA MURRAY is a professor of law at the New York University School of Law. They are co-hosts of the "Strict Scrutiny" podcast.

I WOULD NEVER GIVE BIRTH BEING DEAD
NASZ PENIS ICH MACICE!

CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI Associated Press

A CROWD gathered outside the house of Poland's ruling conservative party leader in Warsaw in 2020, protesting a court decision that limited abortion rights.

How Poland could become the next Hungary — a democracy in name only

By Kati Marton

ELECTIONS ARE ALWAYS high-stakes affairs in countries experiencing democratic backsliding. This was true of Turkey's recent presidential election — described as "free but unfair." Likewise, when Poles go to vote this fall, democracy itself will be on the line.

Since coming to power in 2015, Poland's populist Law and Justice (PiS) party has politicized the judiciary, harassed civil society and worked tirelessly to drive independent media out of business. It has capitalized on the politics of fear and grievance, pitted urban voters against rural constituencies and touted a mythologized version of Polish history.

In this sense, the PiS has been following in the footsteps of both Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orbán, whose country can no longer even be considered a democracy, though it remains a member of the European Union. The difference is that Poland's de facto leader, Jarosław Kaczyński, has left the presidency to someone else — Andrzej Duda — thereby shielding his influence from vigorous scrutiny.

These tactics may well be working in Poland, just as they have in Turkey and Hungary. During a recent trip to Poland, I was shocked by the sometimes poisonous anti-European — and, specifically, anti-German — public discourse.

Ultimately, only Poland's voters can decide their country's political future. But that is no reason for complacency on the part of the international community, especially the world's democracies. Full-blown authoritarianism would inflict incalculable damage on the West while a war rages next door.

A Polish government that eschews democracy, the rule of law, and European unity would embolden illiberal forces elsewhere, including in the United States, where Donald Trump is leading the Republican field ahead of next year's presidential election.

Another PiS victory might also weaken Poland's position as a bulwark against Russian President Vladimir Putin's imperial designs. Since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine last year, Poland has provided sanctuary for millions of refugees and has served as the main conduit for Western military supplies flowing to Ukraine's armed forces. Poles can identify with the refugees' plight, which recalls the barbarism they suffered at the hands of the Nazis, including the destruction of Warsaw on Hitler's orders (while the Red Army, on Stalin's orders, sat on the opposite bank of the Vistula and watched).

The PiS government deserves high praise for its support of Ukraine, which stands in stark contrast with the Orbán government's "Hungary for Hungarians" stance and grotesque embrace of Putin. But its commitment to this approach may have its limits. In an apparent attempt to secure farmers' votes, it announced in April that it was halting imports of Ukrainian grain, though it must be said that Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia also have prohibited grain imports from Ukraine, and all have done so with the EU's blessing.

Fortunately, the U.S. and the EU do have some leverage that they can use to prevent Poland from threatening foundations of the post-Cold War order, including Poland's obvious reliance on NATO for its security and the EU for financial support.

The EU must adopt a constructive yet firm approach to the Polish government, backed by the enforcement of the rule-of-law conditionality that was imposed on diplomatic and financial support for both Poland and Hungary last year. Already, the EU has withheld billions of euros that were supposed to go to Poland.

Moreover, the European Court of Justice has imposed a massive daily fine on the country — recently reduced from 1 million euros to 500,000 euros — over its refusal to comply with EU demands to alter its 2019 judicial reforms, which the ECJ ruled violate EU law. The EU must back this ruling with even more institutional and financial muscle. The restoration of judicial independence is nonnegotiable.

Democratic and humanist values — the values for which the Ukrainian people are now fighting, at extraordinary cost — are at the heart of the post-Cold War European order. Fortunately, Polish civil society remains robust, with younger generations increasingly leading the fight against PiS's depredations. They are committed to preventing further democratic backsliding and upholding European values, even if Kaczyński is not. And they deserve greater support from their Western allies.

The large Polish diaspora in the U.S. and Western Europe is uniquely positioned to help, along with the broader international community. Brave Polish NGOs — such as Women's Strike — are fighting on the front lines to defend women's rights, under direct threat from PiS. We must amplify their voices, as well as those of Poland's increasingly threatened LGBTQ+ community.

It is up to today's Poles to take up the mantle of the Gdansk shipyard workers whose strike in 1980 led to the establishment of the anti-authoritarian Solidarity trade union and social movement, which ultimately brought down communist rule in Central Europe in 1989. But Poland's friends must also support those Poles who embody this spirit. Without solidarity, Poland may well lose its democracy.

KATI MARTON, chair of Action for Democracy Advisory Council, is a journalist, human rights activist and the author, most recently, of "The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel."

Will AI follow the ethical path pioneered by DNA scientists?

By Michael Rogers

IN THE SUMMER of 1974, a group of international researchers published an urgent open letter asking their colleagues to suspend work on a potentially dangerous new technology. The letter was a first in the history of science — and now, half a century later, it has happened again.

The first letter, "Potential Hazards of Recombinant DNA Molecules," called for a moratorium on certain experiments that transferred genes between different species, a technology fundamental to genetic engineering.

The letter this March, "Pause Giant AI Experiments," came from leading artificial intelligence researchers and notables such as Elon Musk and Steve Wozniak. Just as in the recombinant DNA letter, the researchers called for a moratorium on certain AI projects, warning of a possible "AI extinction event."

Some AI scientists had already called for cautious AI research back in 2017, but their concern drew little public attention until the arrival of generative AI, first released publicly as ChatGPT. Suddenly, an AI tool could write stories, paint pictures, conduct conversations, even write songs — all previously unique human abilities. The March letter suggested that AI might someday turn hostile and even possibly become our evolutionary replacement.

Although 50 years apart, the debates that followed the DNA and AI letters have a key similarity: In both, a relatively specific concern raised by the researchers quickly became a public proxy for a whole range of political, social and even spiritual worries.

AI Chat
ChatGPT
AI Chat

OLIVIER MORIN AFP via Getty Images

The recombinant DNA letter focused on the risk of accidentally creating novel fatal diseases. Opponents of genetic engineering broadened that concern into various disaster scenarios: a genocidal virus programmed to kill only one racial group, genetically engineered salmon so vigorous they could escape fish farms and destroy coastal ecosystems, fetal intelligence augmentation affordable only by the wealthy. There were even street protests against recombinant DNA experimentation in key research cities, including San Francisco and Cambridge, Mass. The mayor of Cambridge warned of bioengineered "monsters" and asked: "Is this the answer to Dr. Frankenstein's dream?"

In the months since the "Pause Giant AI Experiments" letter, disaster scenarios have also proliferated: AI enables the ultimate totalitarian surveillance state, a crazed military AI application launches a nuclear war, super-intelligent AIs collaborate to undermine the planet's infrastructure. And there are less apocalyptic forebodings as well: unstoppable AI-powered hackers, massive global AI misinformation campaigns, rampant unemployment as artificial intelligence takes our jobs.

The recombinant DNA letter led to a four-day meeting at the Asilomar Conference Grounds on the Monterey Peninsula, where 140 researchers gathered to draft safety guidelines for the new work. I covered that conference as a journalist, and the proceedings radiated history-in-the-making: a who's who of top molecular geneticists, including Nobel laureates as well as younger researchers who added 1960s idealism to the mix. The discussion in session after session was contentious; careers, work in progress, the freedom of scientific inquiry were all potentially at stake. But there was also the implicit fear that if researchers didn't draft their own regulations, Congress would do it for them, in a far more heavy-handed fashion.

With only hours to spare on the last day, the conference voted to approve guidelines that would then be codified and enforced by the National Institutes of Health; versions of those rules still exist today and must be followed by any research organization that receives federal funding. The guidelines also indirectly influence the commercial biotech industry, which depends in large part on federally funded science for new ideas. The rules aren't perfect, but they have worked well enough. In the 50 years since, we've had no genetic engineering disasters. (Even if the COVID-19 virus escaped from a laboratory, its genome did not show evidence of genetic engineering.)

The artificial intelligence challenge is a more complicated problem. Much of the new AI research is done in the private sector, by hundreds of companies ranging from tiny startups to multinational tech mammoths — none as easily regulated as academic institutions. And there are already existing laws about cybercrime, privacy, racial bias and more that cover many of the fears around advanced AI; how many new laws are actually needed? Finally, unlike the genetic engineering guidelines, the AI rules will probably be drafted by politicians. In June the European Union Parliament passed its draft AI Act, a far-reaching proposal to regulate AI that could be ratified by the end of the year but that has already been criticized by researchers as prohibitively strict.

No proposed legislation so far addresses the most dramatic concern of the AI moratorium letter: human extinction. But the history of genetic engineering since the Asilomar Conference suggests we may have some time to consider our options before any potential AI apocalypse.

Genetic engineering has proven far more complicated than anyone expected 50 years ago. After the initial fears and optimism of the 1970s, each decade has confronted researchers with new puzzles. A genome can have huge runs of repetitive, identical genes, for reasons still not fully understood. Human diseases often involve hundreds of individual genes. Epigenetics research has revealed that external circumstances — diet, exercise, emotional stress — can significantly influence how genes function. And RNA, once thought simply a chemical messenger, turns out to have a much more powerful role in the genome.

That unfolding complexity may prove true for AI as well. Even the most humanlike poems or paintings or conversations produced by AI are generated by a purely statistical analysis of the vast database that is the internet. Producing human extinction will require much more from AI: specifically, a self-awareness able to ignore its creators' wishes and instead act in AI's own interests. In short, consciousness. And, like the genome, consciousness will certainly grow far more complicated the more we study it.

Both the genome and consciousness evolved over millions of years, and to assume that we can reverse-engineer either in a few decades is a tad presumptuous. Yet if such hubris leads to excess caution, that is a good thing. Before we actually have our hands on the full controls of either evolution or consciousness, we will have plenty of time to figure out how to proceed like responsible adults.

MICHAEL ROGERS is an author and futurist whose most recent book is "Email from the Future: Notes from 2084." His fly-on-the-wall coverage of the recombinant DNA Asilomar conference, "The Pandora's Box Congress," was published in Rolling Stone in 1975.

Trump cases are a looming legal quagmire

An election win under indictment would be 'uncharted waters' for presidential privilege.

By Kevin Rector

WITCH HUNT
TRUMP 2024
TEXT TRUMP TO 88022
TEXT TEXAS TO 88022
TRUMP
MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!
2024
I STAND WITH TRUMP

Nathan Howard Associated Press

FORMER President Trump addresses a campaign rally March 25 in Waco, Texas. If he is reelected, his precarious legal position — with indictments federally and in New York — will put the U.S. government's executive and judicial branches on a high-speed collision course.

> 'It's a real bind. How do you weigh the rule of law versus respecting the result of the election?'
>
> — Daniel Farber, UC Berkeley Law School

When he announced the federal indictment of former President Trump for allegedly mishandling classified documents, Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith said there is "one set of laws in this country, and they apply to everyone."

But that isn't necessarily true.

According to many legal and political scholars and the Justice Department itself, there are different rules for sitting U.S. presidents, including that they cannot be criminally prosecuted while in office.

That rule — which is both long-standing and open to debate — is at the center of a staggering legal crisis looming before the nation as the twice-indicted former president seeks a second term.

Trump's precarious legal position as a leading presidential contender has put the federal government's executive and judicial branches on a high-speed collision course, scholars say, and could lead to political and constitutional crises if not averted by voters.

A Trump victory in the November 2024 general election would not be precluded by the pending charges, potential convictions or even Trump's imprisonment. And it would test the nation's separation of powers and the presumed privileges of the presidency like never before.

Trump's reelection could spur court battles over his ability to pardon himself or to direct the Justice Department to dismiss charges against him in any ongoing federal cases, and over his continued vulnerability in ongoing state prosecutions. Those include cases in New York, where he has been indicted, and Georgia, where he is under investigation.

If any of the cases are decided before the election, a Trump victory could spark legal battles over the terms of any convictions and whether he would still be subject to them as president.

The circumstances are so unprecedented, and the law around presidential privileges so unsettled, that it is impossible to know how all of Trump's legal and political woes will play out, experts say. But it won't be pretty.

"We're certainly in completely uncharted waters, even now," said Robert Mintz, a former federal prosecutor who now represents high-profile federal defendants.

"The founding fathers never anticipated anything like this," said Robert Shrum, director of USC's Center for the Political Future.

The cases

Trump is the first U.S. president to be indicted, and it has happened twice in the last few months.

In April, Manhattan Dist. Atty. Alvin Bragg announced the indictment of Trump in New York on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records as part of an alleged scheme to "conceal damaging information and unlawful activity" from voters before and after the 2016 election. The scheme, Bragg said, included the use of hush money by Trump and his team to bury negative stories, such as adult film star Stormy Daniels' claims of an affair.

To carry out the scheme, Bragg alleged, Trump and others "violated election laws and made and caused false entries in the business records of various entities in New York" and "mischaracterized, for tax purposes, the true nature of the payments."

Trump has pleaded not guilty. A trial has been set for March, but it could be delayed. Trump could face years in prison.

Smith this month announced the federal indictment of Trump on 37 felony charges related to his alleged mishandling of highly sensitive government documents from his time in the White House, including 31 counts of violating the Espionage Act.

The indictment alleges that Trump knew the documents were classified and illegal for him to possess, retained them and showed them to others without proper clearances, left them dangerously exposed in storage at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida and actively subverted attempts by the federal government and his own attorneys to retrieve them.

The indictment alleges that the documents included records detailing U.S. nuclear programs, nuclear capabilities of foreign nations, defense and weapons capabilities of the U.S. and foreign countries and potential vulnerabilities of the U.S. and its allies to military attack.

The indictment outlined the evidence against Trump in great detail, including a recording in which he allegedly acknowledged that a document he had was never declassified — undermining his own claim that he had every right to retain the records.

Trump has pleaded not guilty. A trial has been set for August, but that is likely to change given the complexity of the case. The government has asked for a delay until December. Trump again faces years in prison if convicted, though his sentence would depend on a variety of factors.

In addition to the indicted cases, Smith is conducting a separate investigation into Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election and his role in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, while prosecutors in Fulton County, Ga., are investigating attempts by Trump to overturn the 2020 election there.

Trump has denounced all the investigations as part of a politically motivated "witch hunt."

In New York, Trump has denied having an affair with Daniels, denied direct involvement in any hush money payments, blamed others — including those who implicated him, such as his former attorney Michael Cohen — and ridiculed Bragg's case as legally dubious.

In the classified documents case, Trump's defense has varied from claims that he was within his rights to have the documents to an argument that he was "very busy" when federal authorities initially came asking for the records and was unable to immediately comply.

Legal experts have said the strength of Bragg's case remains unclear, in part because the New York prosecutor didn't fully detail in the indictment the evidence he has against Trump. They largely agree on the substantial strength of Smith's case, noting the striking amount of evidence detailed in that indictment.

In the long run, however, the strength of the cases may matter less than the election.

"Even if he got convicted," Shrum said, "he could still run for president."

Try the president?

While the Constitution outlines the process by which Congress can impeach a sitting president — Trump was twice impeached by the House but never convicted by the Senate — it is silent on the question of whether a sitting president can be prosecuted through normal judicial channels.

The courts have likewise been quiet on the question, experts said, though the Justice Department has weighed in.

In 1973 and again in 2000, when Presidents Nixon and Clinton were in hot water, Justice Department officials issued opinions concluding that sitting presidents cannot be indicted or prosecuted.

Both opinions hinged on a core principle of American democracy: the separation of powers. They concluded that any judicial interest in charging a sitting president with a crime — and subjecting him or her to the physical and mental demands of a potentially lengthy and politically fraught criminal trial — was outweighed by the mandate from voters to perform the onerous executive duties of the presidency.

On balance, department officials reasoned, it would be untenable for any individual prosecutor to have the power to target and temporarily incapacitate through criminal proceedings the head of the executive branch.

In the 2000 opinion, Randolph D. Moss, the assistant attorney general at the time, wrote that indicting or prosecuting a sitting president "would unconstitutionally undermine the capacity of the executive branch to perform its constitutionally assigned functions." So sitting presidents — and sitting presidents alone in all of government — are "immune" from such actions.

"Where the President is concerned," Moss wrote, "only the House of Representatives has the authority to bring charges of criminal misconduct through the constitutionally sanctioned process of impeachment."

Moss, now a federal judge, did not respond to a request for comment.

His opinion was reiterated by Robert S. Mueller III, the special counsel brought on by the Justice Department in the early years of Trump's presidency to investigate possible collusion between Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and Russia.

Mueller and his team of prosecutors indicted or secured guilty pleas from 34 people and three companies during the nearly two-year investigation, including Trump's campaign manager, former national security advisor and Cohen, the president's personal attorney. But when it came to Trump and whether he obstructed justice by attempting to thwart the probe, Mueller punted.

Citing the Justice Department's position that sitting presidents can't be indicted, Mueller decided it would be unfair to conclude one way or the other whether Trump had committed a crime.

"Accordingly," Mueller wrote, "while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him."

Trump's critics denounced the double standard afforded the president and noted that Mueller's team had collected substantial evidence to suggest obstruction. Directly contradicting Mueller's words, Trump claimed that the report offered him "complete and total EXONERATION."

Based on that history, legal experts say, Trump is clearly more vulnerable now, while he is out of office, than he was during his first term as president or would be were he to win a second term. That has created the intense legal window in which cases have been brought, but it's unclear whether they will be adjudicated prior to the election — or if any outcomes will even matter if Trump wins a second term.

If Smith's federal case were pending when Trump won the election, "then the decision about whether to pursue the case would be up to the attorney general at the time, and the Department of Justice could elect to simply dismiss the charges and not pursue them," Mintz said.

If the New York case or one in another state were pending when he won the election, prosecutors in those states would similarly be forced to consider whether they could continue trying the president. If they decided they could and pushed forward, Trump would likely challenge their authority — potentially taking the question of whether a sitting president can be prosecuted to the U.S. Supreme Court, which leans conservative and includes three Trump appointees.

If Trump were convicted on any of the federal or state charges before the election, what would happen with those convictions and any sentences that have been handed down is anyone's guess, Mintz said, and "raises a host of unprecedented legal questions" that would no doubt prompt their own legal battles, particularly if Trump sought to pardon himself.

Shrum said he considers the probability of Trump going to trial before the election a "long shot," in part because Trump hopes to win the election first and "is trying to delay this as much as possible. His lawyers will file every motion they can."

If he does win, Shrum said, Trump will likely seek to "politicize the Justice Department" to immediately clear himself of any wrongdoing and "go after his political enemies."

Daniel Farber, a professor at UC Berkeley Law School who studies presidential power, said there is a less controversial scenario wherein Trump gets elected and simply asks Justice Department holdovers from the Biden administration to reconsider the cases against him in light of the department's standing policy that sitting presidents can't be prosecuted.

But Trump is brash, Farber said, and is just as likely to come in and clear out the top ranks of the Justice Department, in a move akin to Nixon's 1973 "Saturday Night Massacre," in which the president fired his attorney general, deputy attorney general and the special counsel investigating the Watergate scandal.

Whatever happens, Farber said, officials overseeing the cases against Trump will have to make tough decisions if he wins the election, given the protections he'd gain.

"It's a real bind," Farber said. "How do you weigh the rule of law versus respecting the result of the election?"

Up to the voters

Experts agree that voters hold the strongest hand, as they alone have the power to deny Trump reelection.

The criminal cases are powerful in part because they are playing out not just in court but in the court of public opinion — and could sway voters.

A poll by the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies and co-sponsored by The Times — conducted after Bragg filed his indictment but before Smith's — found that 86% of likely Republican voters in California believed that the investigations of Trump were more about politics and political revenge than about law and justice, and 70% felt they should be halted for the good of the country.

However, a majority of California voters overall, who skew Democratic, rejected those ideas, the poll found, with about 6 in 10 saying the investigations "aim to hold Trump accountable for his unlawful actions."

Meena Bose, director of the Peter S. Kalikow Center for the Study of the American Presidency at Hofstra University, said American democracy is grounded in the law but also on "norms and expectations of responsibility" among elected officials that have repeatedly been challenged by presidents, including Nixon, Clinton and Trump.

All of the "unprecedented events and controversies of the Trump presidency and post-presidency" have perhaps presented a "complicated path" for Trump to return to the White House, Bose said, but it is also "pretty clear that the former president's core supporters are with him no matter what."

Shrum said the revelations in the indictments are damning, and Trump's responses aren't helping him. Trump hasn't just dismissed the cases as meritless but has suggested that, if reelected, he would go after the Justice Department and even the U.S. Constitution in order to protect himself and attack his political opponents, Shrum said.

That messaging raises "threats to democracy," evokes the chaos of Trump's first term and could drive key voting groups to the polls to vote against him, Shrum said — if not in the Republican primary, then in the general election.

"If that happens and he loses independents, and Gen Z turns out and suburban women turn out, I don't see the equation that gets him elected to a second term," Shrum said.

Gabriel Lenz, a political science professor at UC Berkeley, said there is a flip side, in that Trump has had political success in suggesting to supporters that his indictments are proof of a corrupt system that is out to get him.

"The indictments just play into Trump's narrative that the Democrats are using the government unfairly to go against their leader," Lenz said. "That just will increase Republicans' tolerance for Trump's own backsliding on democracy."

Eric Schickler, also a political science professor at Berkeley, said Trump has long benefited from other Republican leaders being so afraid of the party's base turning on them if they speak out against him that they largely remain silent about — or dismiss as unfair — his troubles, legal and otherwise.

However, since Smith filed his detailed indictment over the classified documents, more Republicans — including former Trump White House officials such as Atty. Gen. William Barr and primary rivals such as Gov. Chris Christie — are speaking out against the former president.

Whether that growing criticism will make any difference remains to be seen, Schickler said.

"One thing we've seen with Trump," he said, "is that it's hard to get a lot of political voters to change their minds about him."

Los Angeles Times B

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WE WANT PRICE JR.

BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

COMMUNITY MEMBERS support Councilmember Curren Price at a meeting Friday in Los Angeles. Many speakers argued that the city official, who faces felony charges, is being unfairly targeted because of his race.

City committee halts Price's suspension until late August

Panel also OKs plan to examine what leader's district would look like upon his censure.

By Julia Wick and David Zahniser

After more than 90 minutes of impassioned testimony, a Los Angeles City Council committee Friday tapped the brakes on the effort to suspend Councilmember Curren Price, postponing a recommendation until at least the end of August.

Price, who has maintained his innocence, was charged last week with 10 felony counts in a case that partly involves votes he cast on affordable housing projects developed by companies that employed Price's wife as a consultant.

Members of the council's three-person Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee argued that the council should slow down, give Price's constituents more of a voice in the process and take time to research the best ways to move forward.

Ultimately, Council President Paul Krekorian and Councilmembers Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Hugo Soto-Martínez agreed to table the suspension proceedings until the committee's next regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 25.

They also approved Harris-Dawson's proposal to "transparently and expeditiously explore all options" for filling a temporary vacancy, and creating a process for soliciting public input from constituents and civic institutions in the district.

Price said he was pleased with the committee's decision, noting that he has "not yet had the opportunity to answer the unwarranted charges" against him in court.

"I hope that the committee, and the full council, will extend to me the same presumption of innocence that the law extends to me, and I look forward to proving my innocence," he said.

Dozens of people spoke in ardent support of Price during the meeting, including pastors, labor leaders and a long list of South Central community members. They urged the three committee members to let the legal process play out and not penalize Price — or his constituents — before he had a

[See **Council,** B4]

Can more 'good fire' be encouraged?

A state liability fund would cover damages in case a prescribed burn escapes.

By Alex Wigglesworth

As California grapples with increasingly destructive wildfires due in part to climate change, many experts insist that the state must fight fire with fire and expand the use of controlled burns to clear forests of excess fuel and restore ecosystem health.

However, a key barrier to purposely setting fire to forest vegetation has been the inability to obtain insurance coverage for burn operations.

Now, a new state program seeks to solve that problem by establishing a $20-million claims fund to cover damages should a controlled burn escape.

"We call this good fire, beneficial fire," said state Sen. Bill Dodd (D-Napa), who sponsored legislation creating the fund. "It reduces hazardous fuels, which really create the volatility of these fires, particularly with wind and hot days and low humidities."

"Good fire" can refer to prescribed burning — the practice of setting land alight under optimal conditions to reduce vegetation that could fuel a catastrophic wildfire — or cultural burning, the controlled application of fire to achieve cultural goals or objectives set by Indigenous practitioners.

Cultural burning was practiced in California for millenniums before colonizers forced Native people from their lands and adopted policies to aggressively suppress both intentionally and naturally sparked blazes. Forests that had become adapted to fire grew denser, less diverse and more flammable — particularly as climate change made conditions hotter and drier.

The state is now seeking

[See **'Good fire,'** B8]

GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

A FIREFIGHTING crew does a prescribed burn to clear dead trees and brush in Sequoia National Park.

State bar lays out its case against Eastman

Ex-Chapman dean and Trump lawyer could lose his license over Jan. 6 electoral count.

By Christopher Goffard

On the day before rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol in 2021, Orange County law professor John Eastman was trying to convince Mike Pence's attorney that the vice president possessed a power that none of his predecessors had ever exercised in American history.

Eastman was in Washington, D.C., in his capacity as a legal advisor to then-President Trump. He argued that Pence, as president of the Senate, could unilaterally reject electoral votes from seven contested states in which fraud was alleged, according to Gregory Jacob, who was Pence's chief counsel at the time.

Jacob said the vice president had flatly dismissed the idea as unconstitutional. "From our very first discussion he indicated that it didn't make sense to him that he would have that authority," Jacob said, testifying remotely last week before the California Bar Court in Los Angeles at a trial to determine whether Eastman should keep his law license.

Even Eastman conceded that the Supreme Court would likely reject the theory unanimously, Jacob said. However, Eastman contin-

[See **Eastman,** B4]

Out almost $80,000? Don't get scammed

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

EMILIANO GALAN, 83, asks a question during an LAPD presentation about financial scams and physical abuse against seniors June 15 at St. Barnabas Senior Services.

GOLDEN STATE California is about to be hit by an aging population wave, and Steve Lopez is riding it. His column focuses on the blessings and burdens of advancing age — and how some folks are challenging the stigma associated with older adults.

Schemes targeting seniors via phone or computer are big business, but there are ways to guard against fraud.

STEVE LOPEZ

Neal checked his email one day and saw that he was being charged several hundred dollars for a software subscription he didn't want.

The 79-year-old Brentwood retiree called the phone number in the email and allowed a stranger to take remote access of his computer to "fix" the problem. Within 24 hours in January, two wire transfers from Neal's Los Angeles bank account ended up in Hong Kong, with Neal having been duped into believing the payments were to correct accounting errors and make him whole.

Just like that, he'd lost $79,500, nearly wiping out an account he and his wife had intended as a down payment in a retirement center.

"Makes me ill, just thinking about this," said Neal, who is kicking himself because he used to work in financial services and should have known better. He later realized the email was from a personal account rather than the software company he thought he was dealing with.

Neal told me he was going through a tough time and not thinking clearly when he fell for the scam.

[See **Lopez,** B10]

Doctor found guilty of opioid distribution

San Jose physician wrote thousands of prescriptions despite a death, feds say. **B3**

Bus driver is knifed in Venice

Police arrest man, 60, in attack that injured Metro employee in the back. **B7**

O.C. city aims to restrict books

Huntington Beach would bar kids from accessing 'obscene' library materials. **B2**

Lottery **B2**

Kangaroo nor rat, this critter is a sight

Animal, more akin to a gopher, hadn't been spotted in Santa Cruz Mountains since '40s.

By Christian Martinez

In 2019, cameras set up by wildlife photographer and researcher Ken Hickman in the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, a sprawling, 19,000-acre tract of wilderness in the Santa Cruz Mountains, captured images of a tiny creature with prominent black eyes, large back legs and a long tail — a Santa Cruz kangaroo rat.

For an animal that diminutive, the reaction to the photos from the scientific community was enormous, with researchers marveling at the discovery and launching new initiatives to map its habitat.

Matthew Sharp Chaney — a biologist with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, or Midpen — called the discovery exciting and said it provides an opportunity to research a creature long thought to have disappeared from the region.

"Had we not preserved this massive area in Sierra Azul," he said, "this area may have been developed; we may have lost the species."

The Santa Cruz kangaroo rat, which is more closely related to chipmunks and gophers than kangaroos or rats, had not been spotted in the area since the 1940s. The creature is listed as a critically imperiled subspecies by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and was believed to exist only in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park in Felton.

Midpen and researchers at UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo confirmed the presence of the kangaroo rat earlier this year, humanely trapping and releasing nearly a dozen of the animals — which bound around like kangaroos.

So why are scientists so thrilled to see the Santa Cruz kangaroo rat making its home again nearly a century later in this California preserve?

The creature — like larger and more recognizable animals such as mountain lions and otters — is a "keystone

[See **Kangaroo rat,** B8]

O.C. city votes to limit kids' access to 'obscene' books

By Matt Szabo

Should politicians be involved in determining what is appropriate for school-age children at public libraries?

Many who attended Tuesday night's Huntington Beach City Council meeting said no. But after nearly six hours of contentious public comments, the panel voted 4 to 3 to support Mayor Pro Tem Gracey Van Der Mark's agenda item seeking to make books deemed obscene and/or pornographic unavailable to children.

The vote was taken at about 1 a.m. Wednesday, after more than 100 residents weighed in on the issue. Over 600 emails were received, City Clerk Robin Estanislau said, with a review showing a majority of correspondence was against the item.

Two overflow rooms were packed for the meeting, as others watched from the lobby of City Hall.

Mayor Tony Strickland and Councilmembers Casey McKeon and Pat Burns voted along with Van Der Mark to support the item. Councilman Dan Kalmick and Councilwomen Natalie Moser and Rhonda Bolton voted against, in what has been a very common vote in the months since the conservative majority was sworn in last December.

Van Der Mark insisted she was not calling for a ban on books but restricting children's access to them in the Huntington Beach Public Library system without adult supervision. Her presentation included censored versions of images and passages available in several books. She also read selections, including "Gender Queer," "Grandad's Pride" and "The V-Word: True Stories About First-Time Sex."

"Parents, check these books out," Van Der Mark said. "If this is what you want for your kids, go for it, but a lot of parents don't know this material is in these books. A lot of parents don't know these books are in the library. I know this, because I've been doing this for six years. … These [proposed restrictions] are safeguards to protect our kids."

Kalmick argued that action constituted a ban.

"Making something unavailable to someone is a synonym for banning it," he said. "I think all of the issues that were brought up by the mayor pro tem have been solved by using the existing process. I have a 4-year-old who I have now taken to all but one of the public libraries in this city, and I don't let her out of my sight when she's there because she's 4. She also can't read, so … we're confusing the term child with young adult and adolescent and teenager in this conversation."

AGENDA ITEM
PUBLIC COMMENTS (3-Minute Time Limit)
CURRENT SPEAKER
Steve Quinn
SPEAKER TIMER
01:55
GENDER QUEER

Scott Smeltzer Los Angeles Times

TWO RESIDENTS against the book limit and one favoring it display their sentiments at a Huntington Beach council meeting last week. The item passed 4-3.

In the 1973 case Miller vs. California, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the prosecution of a California publisher for the distribution of obscene materials. The three-pronged Miller test remains a guideline for determining if something meets the federal standard of being called obscene, and thus not protected under the 1st Amendment right of free speech.

Under Van Der Mark's item, City Manager Al Zelinka will work with City Atty. Michael Gates, returning this September with options for stopping minors from viewing obscene and/or pornographic books or materials at public libraries. The item states that Gates would evaluate the books to see if they are protected by the 1st Amendment.

Strickland said a system could be comparable to the Motion Picture Assn. movie rating system of "G" through "R" and "NC-17."

Bolton, an attorney, warned that passage of the item could open the city up to litigation.

"There's safeguards in the system against obscenity at every step," she said. "That's just the way the book business works … and that is the way the 1st Amendment works. The default is, the government doesn't get involved in this. The parents decide."

The Huntington Beach Public Library does have a system in place for a review process if a patron believes a book is inappropriately categorized. Ashley Wysocki, acting director of community and library services, said during the meeting that it has been requested just five times in the last five years — one of those was by Van Der Mark.

One of those five review requests was made by Van Der Mark in 2020, and it was successful in moving "Gender Queer: A Memoir" to the adult section of the library.

"Whether it is a sticker on the book that lets the parents know it's sexually graphic, whether it's a section — whatever it is — we are open to any ideas," Van Der Mark said. "I just don't understand why anybody has a problem with warning parents that some of this material is in these books."

But Moser said these suggestions constituted government restrictions on speech, in violation of the 1st Amendment.

"Book banning sets a dangerous precedent," Moser said. "Once censorship is introduced, it becomes easier to justify the restriction of other materials based on subjective criteria or personal preferences. This slippery slope can undermine the principles of intellectual freedom and potentially lead to further censorship."

Some speakers said Van Der Mark was taking passages from the books out of context. Others called her idea fascist and compared what they saw as a book ban to what happened in Nazi Germany during the 1930s.

"For the sake of Huntington Beach, quit acting like junior high schoolyard bullies," said Brenda Glim, the first public speaker of the night. "Stay in your freaking lane and work on the city budget, homelessness, crime and potholes. Let the career experts do their job that they were hired to do. Most especially, keep your unintelligent, lack of knowledge, power grabbing, pandering, showboating paws off our library."

Author Elana K. Arnold, a former Surf City resident who now lives in Long Beach, was another speaker. She said she is the second-most banned author in the United States, according to PEN America, with young adult novels that mostly focus on stories that explore being female, including misogyny and rape culture.

"When we ban books, we are declaring certain people to be unacceptable," she said. "When we ban books, we shut down conversation. When we ban books, the bullies win."

PEN America Los Angeles director Allison Lee released a statement Wednesday saying she was disappointed in the City Council's vote.

"In this case, the council voted along party lines to endorse this censorious idea, which flies in the face of our Constitution, despite overwhelming community objection," Lee said in a statement. "We stand with the Huntington librarians and all who voiced opposition to the growing effort to ban books and suppress ideas, which continues to take new forms."

Earlier Tuesday, prior to the vote, state Sen. Dave Min, a Democrat, released a statement that the agenda item was deeply concerning and against the country's tradition of free speech. A section of Huntington Beach falls into Min's senatorial district.

Heidi Vea, however, argued during public comments that liberals and progressives, despite what they might say, actually hate free speech.

"I've personally been accused of engaging in the leftist label 'hate speech,'" she said. "It seems that people are able to make up labels willy-nilly and then claim moral authority because of those labels. So, I label your books indoctrination speech, grooming speech, inappropriate for children speech."

Due to the length of Tuesday's meeting, discussion of adopting a budget for fiscal year 2023-24 was delayed until Monday night.

Kalmick said the budget is expected to include library cuts, including possible branch closures.

That's further disappointing news to the handful of librarians who spoke Tuesday night. Alicia Tan, a recent Los Alamitos High graduate, is working as a summer intern for the Huntington Beach Public Library and plans to become a librarian.

"While 'Gender Queer' does contain illustrations with nudity and sex, the true crux and meaning of the novel is a coming-of-age story about a nonbinary and asexual teenager," Tan said. "Why are we trying to stop teenagers from reading stories about teenagers?"

Lottery results

For Friday, June 23, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

13-62-65-67-69—**Mega 14**
Jackpot: $320 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	0	—
4 + Mega	2	$12,445
4	53	$528
3 + Mega	144	$221
3	3,359	$11
2 + Mega	3,031	$11
1 + Mega	23,937	$4
Mega only	63,006	$2

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Saturday, June 24, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**

7-12-13-17-41—**Mega 9**
Jackpot: $70 million

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

2-38-44-50-62—**Powerball 19**
Jackpot: $427 million

Fantasy Five: 8-11-17-19-28

Daily Four: 8-1-8-8

Daily Three (midday): 4-1-9

Daily Three (evening): 4-6-1

Daily Derby:
(8) Gorgeous George
(10) Solid Gold
(3) Hot Shot
Race time: 1:46.63

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

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Categories Listed
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Shelves
Clocks Wall & Table
All Memo Boards, Chalkboards & Dry-Erase Boards Excludes items in the Art Department
Crosses Wall & Table
Wall Decor Includes Canvas, Framed Art, Wood, Metal, Wicker & Macramè
Wooden Plaques Excludes items labeled Gifts
Letters Wall & Table Excludes Crafts Department
Fall items are not included in Home Decor sale.

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FALL FLORAL 40% OFF
Arrangements, bushes, wreaths, garlands, swags, stems, picks and ribbon
Does not include custom designs

Items Labeled THE SPRING SHOP® & SUMMER TOYS 66% OFF
Includes Little Wishes®

FALL DECOR, PARTY AND CRAFTS 40% OFF
Includes fabric
Does not include candy or food

FLORAL 40% OFF
Categories Listed
Stems, Bushes, Arrangements, Garland, Wreaths, Dried Naturals & Swags
Does not include Seasonal Department or items labeled "floral accents"
Does not include custom designs
Ribbon, Bows & Deco Mesh

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NOW MARKED 50% OFF
Selection will vary by store

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Crafter's Collection™ Polymer Clay
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2.99
Reg. $3.99 - $4.99

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Low or High Temp
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Always 2.99
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PARTY
Categories Listed
Does not include Seasonal Department
All Paper Napkins & Plates Solids & Prints 50% OFF
Always 50% off the marked price*
Cake Decorating
All items labeled Sunny Side Up Bakery®
Includes Cake, Cookie and Cupcake Essentials 40% OFF
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PUZZLES & BOXED MODEL KITS 40% OFF
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All Items Labeled The Paper Studio® and The Happy Planner®
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CRAFTS 40% OFF
Categories Listed
Unfinished Craft Wood Priced $4.99 & Up
Mosaic Tiles, Gems, Chips & Stones
Candle Wax, Soap Blocks & Bases
Children's Activity Kits, Paint & Pencil by Number Kits, Diamond Art Kits & Fuzzy Posters Priced $4.99 & Up
Does not include Perler Kits

JEWELRY MAKING 50% OFF
Most Categories Listed
Strung, Tubed & Packaged Beads and Crystals by Color Gallery™, Bead Treasures® and Preciosa®
Bead Design Co.™ Bulk beads & gems
Includes packaged beads by Treehouse Studio®
the Jewelry Shoppe™ Findings and Accessories
Metal Gallery™
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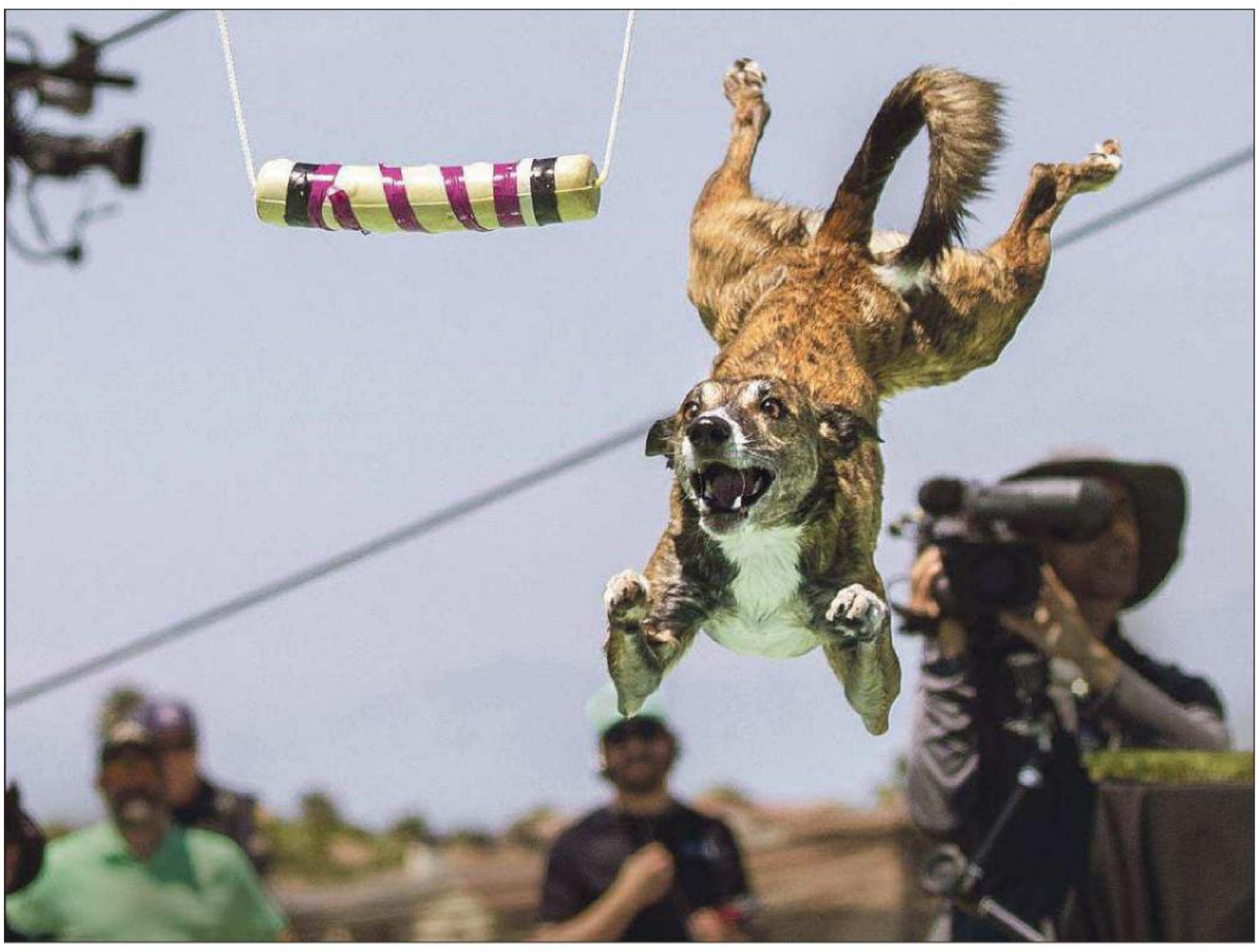
SEWING NOTIONS
Categories Listed
99¢
YKK Zippers Priced $1.49 - $3.49
Buttons Priced $1.49 - $3.49
Sew-Ology® Thread Priced $2.29 - $3.49
Buttons Priced $3.50 - $9.99 1.99
Bias Tape Includes Hem Tape, Piping & Blanket Binding

*Discounts provided every day; marked prices reflect general U.S. market value for similar products. No coupons or other discounts may be applied to "Your Price" items.



Photographs by ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

Dogged in their effort

Heathen, above, a border whippet, leaps but misses a toy in the fetch competition in the Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge at Huntington State Beach. At right, Rush, a Parson Russell terrier, shows his agility in the weave pole competition. Back by popular demand, the event gave dog lovers a chance to watch athletic canines from many breeds demonstrate their athletic prowess in a variety of challenges.

Family doctor convicted of illegal opioid distribution

Feds say Donald Siao, 58, wrote thousands of prescriptions despite a death, other red flags.

By Andrew J. Campa

A San José physician has been convicted of illegally prescribing and distributing large quantities of opioids without a legitimate medical purpose, including to one person who died of an overdose, federal prosecutors said Friday.

Donald Siao, 58, a family physician, was convicted by a federal jury on Tuesday of 12 counts of distributing the controlled substances oxycodone and hydrocodone outside the usual course of his medical practice over a 12-month period between 2016 and 2017, prosecutors with the U.S. attorney's office said in a news release.

After identifying Siao in a separate prescription fraud investigation, investigators discovered Siao had written 8,201 prescriptions for controlled substance medications from May 2016 to May 2017, according to prosecutors.

During the course of the investigation, Siao prescribed increasing amounts of opioids to four undercover agents posing as patients, even though in some instances they admitted to sharing the drugs with coworkers or friends.

Each of the 12 counts against Siao carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

Ismail J. Ramsey, the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of California, said Friday that he would seek to have Siao's medical license forfeited.

Calls to the U.S. attorney's office and to Siao's lawyer were not immediately returned.

Eight of the 12 counts against Siao involved a mother and son identified in court documents as E.J. and A.J., respectively.

Both mother and son claimed to have lost or had pills stolen, and Siao continued to respond with prescriptions, according to court documents.

Siao also ignored a warning from an insurer about potential fraud regarding E.J. and a notice that A.J. had previously been arrested for selling pills, prosecutors said in the news release.

A.J. overdosed twice but still received prescriptions from Siao, according to court documents.

A.J. died from an overdose of opioids in December 2019.

In addition, Siao did not comply with medical records requests from the coroner following A.J.'s death.

The last four counts against Siao were related to an operation conducted by an undercover interagency task force.

The California Department of Justice Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse was one of several agencies investigating Siao in 2017, according to court documents.

In May of that year, the agency searched a state controlled substance database and found that Siao had written more than 8,000 prescriptions for controlled substances.

Many of those prescriptions called for 30 milligrams of oxycodone, which is at the higher end of dosage strength. The National Library of Medicine states, for instance, that immediate-release oxycodone tablets begin at 5 milligrams and top out at 30 mg.

Along with oxycodone, Siao issued prescriptions for combinations of opioids, muscle relaxers and benzodiazepine, often known as the "Holy Trinity," according to court documents.

The Department of Justice has said the trio taken together "depress the central nervous system and the ability to breathe."

The drug task force conducted an investigation from February to May 2018. Four agents visited Siao's office multiple times to request prescriptions for controlled substances.

In one case, one agent known as A.M. pretended to be a retired football player who complained of pain in his shoulder, arm and elbow. He saw Siao three times, with each visit ending with a prescription.

In his third appointment with Siao in July 2018, A.M. admitted that he had shared with a co-worker a portion of a previous 60-tablet, 30-mg strength oxycodone dosage, a potentially addictive controlled substance used for pain management.

The agent asked if Siao could increase the amount of pills to compensate for the borrowed cache.

Siao obliged and increased the total to 75 pills at an appointment that lasted approximately two minutes, according to court documents.

Another agent, identified only as E.T. in court documents, sought Siao for a prescription of Norco, a combination of hydrocodone and acetaminophen used for pain management.

The agent said he had previously purchased Norco at work for $10 a pill.

Siao said, "That is nuts," according to court documents.

The doctor then added, "I'm not going to say anything. Some people try to make a business out of that; put it that way."

The physician then prescribed 45 tablets of 10-mg strength after a first visit in April 2018, according to court documents.

Siao eventually increased the amount to 60 tablets upon E.T.'s second visit, prosecutors said. He also prescribed a cannabinoid, Marinol, at the agent's request.

The agent told Siao he was a marijuana user and needed to show his employer that any cannabis found in his blood stream through random testing was due to another drug.

Siao replied "gotcha" and filled out the prescription, prosecutors said.

Woman found dead in 2001 is ID'd

Police say Catherine Parker-Johnson was last in contact with her family in 1981.

By Paloma Esquivel

More than 20 years after a woman's body was discovered during a construction project in Redondo Beach, police have identified her as a mother who was last in contact with her family in 1981.

Catherine Parker-Johnson's remains were identified earlier this year through DNA comparisons with her daughter and sister, Redondo Beach police said in a statement.

Parker-Johnson's family was last in contact with her in May 1981 in Lennox, and she had not been reported missing, police said.

Twenty years later, on Aug. 29, 2001, Parker-Johnson's body was found during a construction project on a residential street in Redondo Beach. Police said there was a lengthy investigation at the time but they were not able to identify the body.

There is now an active homicide investigation into Parker-Johnson's death, police said.

They encouraged anyone with information about her to reach out to Redondo Beach Police Department investigators John Skipper or Rick Petersen at (310) 379-2477 Ext. 2714 or at janedoe2001@redondo.org.

The Police Department has also scheduled a news conference for 10 a.m. Monday at 200 N. Pacific Coast Highway in Redondo Beach to ask for help from the public and to discuss additional details.

Redondo Beach Police Department

CATHERINE Parker-Johnson's remains were found in Redondo Beach.

LAPD seizes up to $7 million in stolen products

The items, believed to be Nike shoes, were found during a raid at a Torrance warehouse.

By Ruben Vives

The Los Angeles Police Department on Wednesday seized millions of dollars' worth of stolen merchandise believed to be Nike sneakers during a raid of a warehouse in Torrance, officials said.

Police Capt. Alfonso Lopez of the LAPD's commercial crimes division said the merchandise was linked to several cargo trucks that had been stolen from a facility near the Port of Los Angeles. He said the cargo truck thefts occurred over a certain period of time but would not disclose further details because he said it would impede their investigation.

Lopez said thieves made off with merchandise from at least nine cargo trucks. Investigators from various law enforcement agencies tracked the stolen merchandise to a warehouse in Torrance, where a search warrant was served Wednesday evening.

Lopez said investigators recovered stolen products from six of the nine containers.

He said the value of the merchandise ranged from $4 million to $7 million.

Citing police sources, KCBS-TV Channel 2 said the boxes recovered at the warehouse contained Nike sneakers. Lopez would not confirm what the stolen merchandise was.

Shoe and apparel heists are a multimillion-dollar problem for Nike.

In April 2022, Los Angeles County sheriff's detectives arrested Julian Gutierrez in connection with a robbery at a Nike store in East Los Angeles, as well as multiple "grab and go" retail thefts.

Gutierrez was found with several thousand dollars' worth of new clothing, with tags and security devices still attached, in his vehicle, according to the Sheriff's Department.

Losses from the Nike store were estimated at more than $150,000.

In September, thieves in Memphis, Tenn., broke into a Nike distribution center and stole about $800,000 worth of sneakers and apparel, according to authorities.

Earlier this year, the popular sports shoe company temporarily closed its retail store in Portland, Ore., because of thefts.

A Nike spokesperson did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

JAKUB PORZYCKI Associated Press

CITING police sources, KCBS-TV Channel 2 said the items recovered at the warehouse were Nike shoes.

Skull discovered on hiking trail in 1991 is missing boy's

Officials used DNA to link bones to Derrick Burton, who vanished when he was about 4.

By Nathan Solis

A skull found decades ago on a San Bernardino County hiking trail has been identified as that of a missing child, whose case has been reopened and is being investigated as a homicide, officials said.

Patricia Clark in 1991 reported to the San Bernardino Police Department that her son, Derrick Burton, was missing, according to the county Sheriff's Department.

The boy, who was about 4 at the time, was never found.

On Oct. 27, 1991, a hunter found a small human skull east of Redlands in rural Mentone, according to authorities.

The skull was missing its lower jaw. Sheriff's investigators searched the area for additional remains but found none, authorities said. '

Investigators did find a plastic bag with the odor of decomposition and a piece of child's clothing, which were kept for evidence, but the remains could not be identified, sheriff's officials said.

A coroner on Nov. 7, 1991, determined that the skull belonged to a child between the ages of 4 and 8, according to investigators.

The cause of death was undetermined; without additional leads, the case went cold.

In the fall of 2022, DNA from the skull was sent to Othram Inc., a sequencing and genomics lab, in hopes of identifying the child, the Sheriff's Department said.

This year, after comparing DNA from the skull to a sample taken from Clark, the lab determined the skull to be Derrick's, sheriff's officials said.

Anyone with information about the case can contact Det. Edward Hernandez at (909) 890-4904. Anonymous tips can be submitted at (800) 783-7463 or www.wetip.com.

Council panel halts Price suspension till August

[**Council,** from B1]
chance to defend himself in court.

"If Councilman Curren Price is presumed innocent until proven guilty, that means that you would be suspending an innocent person," Pastor Shep Crawford of the Experience Christian Ministries told the committee.

Speakers praised the third-term council member as a friend and leader who had long fought for some of the poorest communities in the city. They recited examples of Price bringing badly needed resources to his district and beseeched the committee not to leave them without representation.

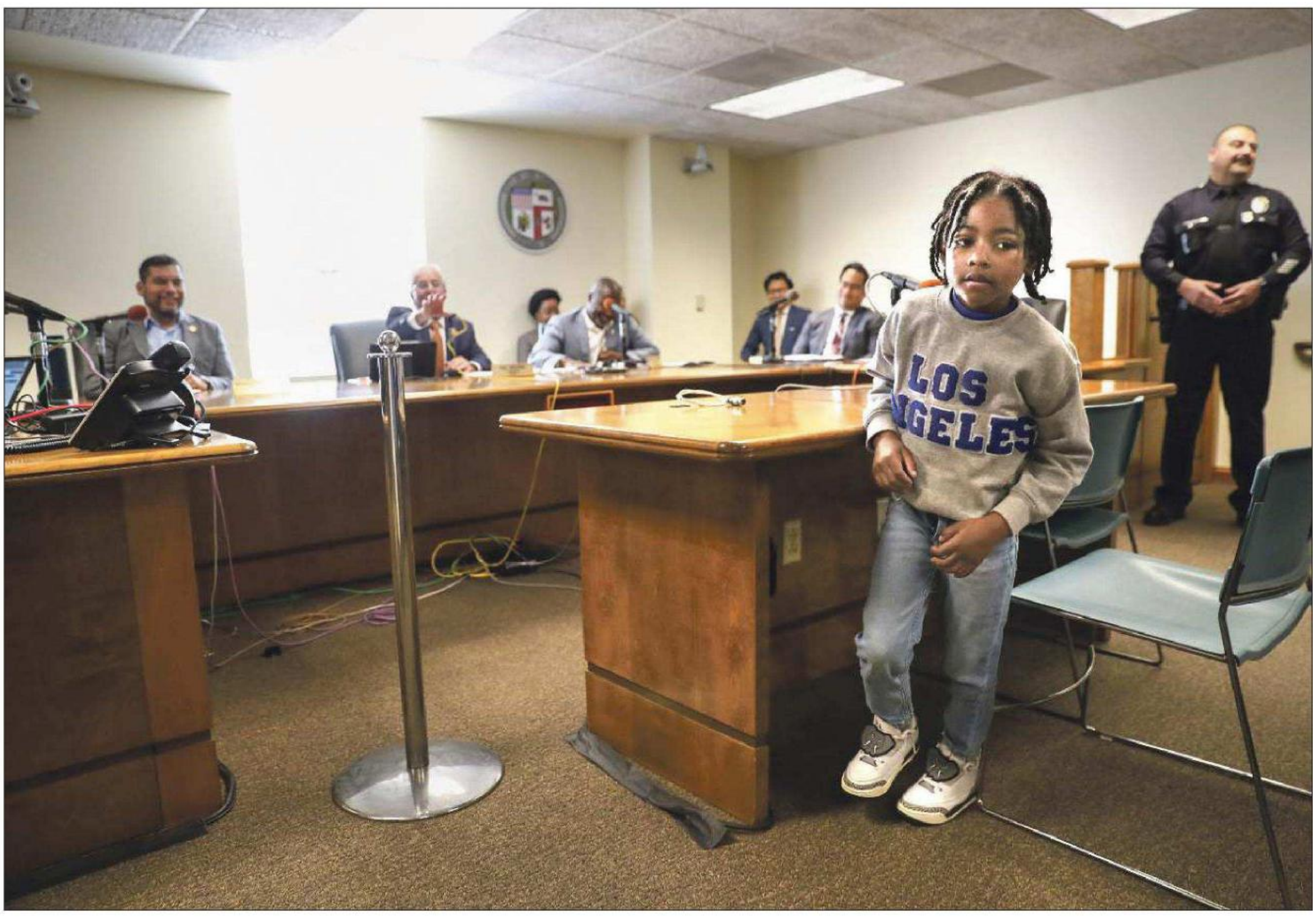
Price, who is Black, represents a district that is four-fifths Latino. He has been characterized as a bridge builder who brought his district's Black and brown communities together. Many speakers also argued that Price was being unfairly targeted or judged under the harshest possible light because of his race.

"I have no doubt that if Curren Price looked like me, he would not be facing these unwarranted felony charges," said Kurt Petersen, co-president of Unite Here Local 11, the politically influential hotel and restaurant workers union. Petersen is white.

Price has been a staunch ally of organized labor during his decade on the council, and Petersen issued a full-throated defense of Price during the meeting.

Several called the charges "bogus" or raised concerns about their "flimsiness," with some drawing distinctions between Price's case and those of other council members who were charged with corruption in recent years.

Adriana Cabrera, president of the Central Alameda Neighborhood Council and a former District 9 candidate, was one of the few who spoke in support of suspending Price.



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

CREED BROJEK, 8, finishes his comments in support of Councilmember Curren Price at a committee meeting Friday in L.A. Price faces suspension from the City Council after he was charged last week with 10 felony counts that involve, in part, his votes on affordable housing.

Cabrera said Price's actions in the community "accelerated gentrification" and argued that "his leadership has benefited developers and further marginalized renters."

This is the council's third suspension proceeding in three years. Former Councilmember Jose Huizar was suspended within hours of being arrested by FBI agents in 2020.

A year later, the City Council took the same action with Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, suspending him one week after he had been indicted on his own set of federal corruption charges.

Now, led by council President Paul Krekorian, the council is taking a slower, and markedly different, approach this time around.

The committee's more cautious approach has been widely seen as a reaction to its handling of Ridley-Thomas' suspension, which left his district with three temporary replacements over a 12-month period and sparked multiple legal challenges. Krekorian later said that it had been a mistake to suspend Ridley-Thomas so quickly, "without thinking about what would come after that."

Should Price be suspended, the path ahead will be equally difficult.

Krekorian could appoint a nonvoting caretaker to fill the seat while Price's battles the charges, but that would leave his district without a voting representative. The council could instead vote instead to appoint a temporary voting member. But that would pave the way for an unelected representative to make decisions on behalf of Price's constituents.

> 'I have no doubt that if Curren Price looked like me, he would not be facing these unwarranted felony charges.'
>
> — Kurt Petersen,
> Unite Here Local 11 co-president

Under the City Charter, the council has the power to suspend — not remove — a colleague facing criminal charges, meaning any vacancy would be temporary, lasting only until his case is resolved or he leaves office. (Ridley-Thomas was ultimately forced from office by his felony conviction.)

Suspending Price would also leave the 15-member council with only one Black representative who has been elected by voters. Councilmember Heather Hutt, who is Black, was selected by the council to replace Ridley-Thomas for the next 18 months and will have to run for the seat for the first time next year.

At one point, Creed Brojek, 8, described Price's role in the community and the help he had provided to the boy's family.

"We need to keep Curren Price, because when I grow up I want to be just like him," he said to applause, before finishing his comment with an "amen."

Prosecutors have charged Price with perjury, saying he failed to disclose his wife's business dealings with developers whose projects he voted on. They also say Price violated conflict-of-interest laws by voting to support two of those developers' affordable housing projects between 2019 and 2021.

In addition, prosecutors have charged Price with embezzlement of public funds, saying he had his now-wife receive city health benefits at a time when their marriage was not legally valid.

Eastman defiant under questioning

[**Eastman,** from B1]
ued to argue that Pence had the power to delay the vote certification, which Jacob believed helped fuel the violence on Jan. 6. He said rioters were driven by the false notion that "a momentous decision" to determine the presidency lay in Pence's hands that day.

"I've seen the video footage of them shouting 'Hang Mike Pence,'" Jacob said. "The vice president was my boss." He said the rioters "believed the vice president had authority to decide the election in favor of President Trump, or at minimum head things in that direction."

It was one thing, Jacob suggested, to float a far-flung academic theory in the safety of a law review article. It was another to invoke the theory while advising the president at a fraught national moment.

"I was offended for my profession," Jacob said. "I thought that it brought our profession into disrepute."

Jacob was one of several witnesses called by the California Bar as it mounted its case against Eastman. Among them were election officials from Arizona, Pennsylvania and Nevada. The officials detailed audits, tabulation-machine tests and other steps to ensure the integrity of the vote count in their states, which Eastman had derided as tainted.

Eastman, a former dean and professor at Chapman University law school, has been on and off the witness stand himself, his manner unapologetic and defiant under sharp questioning from Bar attorney Duncan Carling.

In the aftermath of the election, Eastman made the case that contested states, where Biden had been declared the winner, had the power to decertify electors and pick pro-Trump alternates.

When Carling asked what effect such a plan would have had, if adopted, Eastman replied: "It's uncharted territory."

MANDEL NGAN AFP via Getty Images

FORMER Trump lawyer John Eastman appears onscreen during the House's Jan. 6 hearings last year.

The State Bar accuses Eastman of ethics violations for attempting "to obstruct the electoral count on Jan. 6" by pressuring Pence to reject electors, promoting false claims that electoral cheating cost Trump the election, drumming up slates of bogus electors, and fueling the mob with falsehoods.

Eastman's defense is that he was exercising his 1st Amendment rights and acting as a vigorous advocate for his client, Trump. He maintains that he shouldn't be penalized for advancing a legal theory that a reasonable lawyer might consider viable.

The Bar trial is expected to continue at least through this week. Eastman faces trouble beyond the prospect of losing his license to practice law.

When Eastman appeared before the House Jan. 6 committee, he repeatedly invoked his 5th Amendment right against self-incrimination. The FBI has seized his phone, and the committee has recommended that the Department of Justice consider prosecuting him for "obstruction of an official proceeding" and "conspiracy to defraud the United States."

U.S. District Judge David O. Carter has ruled that Eastman "more likely than not" committed crimes in connection with the 2020 election. In addition, Eastman is a possible target of a criminal probe related to the alternate-elector scheme in Georgia.

Testifying at Eastman's Bar trial last week, Jacob, the vice president's former lawyer, said Pence did not waver in his view that Eastman's reject-the-electors proposal was baseless. Jacob said that no vice president in American history had ever exercised such authority, or expressed belief that he possessed it.

Jacob said Pence never believed that the constitutional framers — with their zeal for checks and balances, and loathing of King George III's one-man rule — would want such power in one person's hands. Instead, Jacob said, Pence saw his vote-counting role as "ministerial."

Jacob said there were voter "irregularities" in various states but no evidence they were large enough to have tilted the election.

In the run-up to the vote-count on Jan. 6, Trump repeatedly suggested that Pence had the power to keep him in office by sending the vote back to the states. "If Vice President Mike Pence comes through for us, we will win the Presidency," Trump tweeted on the night of Jan. 5. "Mike can send it back!"

Violence erupted on Jan. 6 in Washington soon after Eastman spoke at a "Stop the Steal" rally there, and as part of their case, attorneys for the California Bar are pointing to emails exchanged between Eastman and Jacob that day.

"I share your concerns about what Democrats will do once in power," Jacob wrote. "I want election integrity fixed. But I have run down every legal trail placed before me to its conclusion, and I respectfully conclude that as a legal framework, it is a result oriented position that you would never support if attempted by the opposition, and essentially entirely made up. And thanks to your bullshit, we are now under siege."

Eastman replied that there was "compelling evidence that the election was stolen," and blamed "the siege" on Pence not doing "what was necessary."

Jacob apologized for his "unbecoming" language, but added that Eastman's advice had been "a serpent in the ear of the president of the United States." He said it had been "gravely irresponsible for you to entice the President with an academic theory that had no legal viability."

Jacob asked Eastman whether he had informed Trump that Pence lacked the power to decide the election unilaterally — a claim Trump and his surrogates had been making publicly.

Eastman replied that yes, he had so informed Trump, but added: "You know him — once he gets something in his head, it is hard to get him to change course." Eastman added: "When this is over, we should have a good bottle of wine over a nice dinner someplace."

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) FOR KIOSKS FOR GRIEVANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The County of Los Angeles Probation Department is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to obtain information regarding kiosk units that would be suitable for use in its juvenile halls and camps. Probation is seeking information on the latest design innovations and hardware specifications to provide a pleasant user experience, ensure privacy, and ensure the safety of the youth and young adults, staff, and hardware within the kiosk.

For a copy of the RFI #6402305, contact Kevin Kay at (562) 940-2724 or go to the Bids and Awarded Bids & Contracts for the County of Los Angeles web sites: **http://camisvr.co.la.ca.us/lacobids/ or http://probation.lacounty.gov/**
Internet is available at County Libraries. Responses to the RFI are due on or before 12:00 P.M. PT, Thursday, July 27, 2023.
CN997813 PD-PB-23063862-1 Jun 25, 2023

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RESTAURANT
Churrasqueiro II (multiple openings), El Segundo & Pasadena, CA: Convey a sense of gaucho-style hospitality while serving & interacting with guests; provide authentic churrasqueiro dining experience reminiscent of family events in rural Southern Brazil; educate guests about 16 unique cuts of meat & about gaucho culinary & cultural traditions; cook & serve skewer/meats while balancing & integrating culinary & performance aspects w/ tableside carving service to customers in a high-volume churrascaria; use cutlery safety at all times; set pace of cooking & serving rhythm for afternoon & evening dining shifts; monitor overall team presentation to ensure authenticity & customer service; train & provide coaching to Churrasqueiro I employees. Must have 2 yrs churrasqueiro exp. Salary: $61,526. Email resume to Fogo de Chao at jobs@fogo.com. EOE.

Senior Accountant II sought by SingerLewak LLP in Los Angeles, CA to perform complicated tax assignments autonomously under minimal direction of managers or partners. Req.: MS or foreign eq. Telecommuting Permitted. Salary: $72,134 to $98,500 /yr. Send resumes to: Anna Coleman, HR Director, acoleman@singerlewak.com REF: NT-23

Acupuncturists: Req. Master's in Acup. & Ori Med & CA Acup Lic. Mail resume: ZEN ACUPUNCTURE, INC. 1780 Town & Country Dr. #A-102 Norco, CA 92860 Wage: 45,760/YR.

Administrative Support Worker for in-home medical services co. @ $ 52,166/yr. Mail to Advance Specialty Care LLC, 3470 Wilshire Blvd., #600, LA, CA 90010.

Administrative Assistant for commercial property mgmt. co. needed @ $53,352/yr. Mail to Excel Property Management Services, Inc., 9034 Sunset Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

Systems Administrator: US or foreign Bachelors or equiv and 1 yr. exp. Mail resume to: Wedgewood LLC, 2015 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Ste 100, Redondo Beach CA 90278.

(JC41) Sr. Comp. Systs Anlyst -MS/equiv & 2 yrs exp incl Selenium, Watir Web Drivr, TestRail, qTest, Python, PyCharm (IDE), pytest, REST, Postmn, JSON Schem, HTTP, Agil SDLC, Java, TestNG, Eclips, API, & Jira. $115,357/yr. Travel/reloc req'd. Send résumé w/JC# to Saviynt, Inc. 1301 E El Segundo Blvd, Ste D, El Segundo, CA 90245

Analyst: U.S. or foreign Bachelors or equiv. Mail resume to: AJ Khair Construction, Inc., 8228 Sunset Blvd, Ste 211, West Hollywood, CA 90046.

ANALYST Business Analyst (Los Angeles, CA opening) Act as a liaison among stakeholders and the technical team, identify business needs, and perform business analysis of workflows and existing systems. Proffered salary: $69,200.00/per year. Email resume referencing job code#BA06012023CONV to Convertical, LLC at compliance@convertical.io

Consumerinfo.com, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Data Analyst II to analyze website analytics and raw data to formulate and present actionable recommendations to help drive best in class experience and performance. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the US. Pay range for this role is $86,000 - $114,819, with actual pay based on work location, job-related skills, experience and education. Role incl. variable pay and comprehensive benefits. Send resumes and benefit inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at amy.harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.451.

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Employment

Director of Commercial Analytics, SprintRay Inc., Los Angeles, CA. Builds and maintains datasets, reports, dashboards, and KPI, manage data analytics and team. Req. MBA or MS in Math with 5 yrs of exp as Data Analytics Manager, job off'rd/rltd occup incl 5 yrs exp in data analytics, Danaher Bus Sys, Kaizen, and Tableau plus any exp in Power BI, BI systems and modeling, OKR/KPI, and managing data analysts. Salary: $205,733-$220,000. Email: teri@sprintray.com

LEXINT Law looking for Market Research Analyst with bachelor's in Business Administration. Mail resume to: 18719 Del Bonita St, Rowland Heights, CA 91748

ANALYST
In Motion Design, Inc. seeking Operations Research Analyst for office in Paramount, CA. Job Description: use of advanced techniques to assist mgmt w/ decision making/policy formulation/ other managerial functions. Reqs: Master in Finance/Accounting + 48 mos exp (w/ 2 yrs for an accounting firm) + CPA license or foreign equiv. Full time, $117,146.00/yr. Send resumes: fbrubaker@in-motion-design.com.

Professional Advanced Analytics needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to analyze data from multiple sources including data lakes, internal and external data, and data warehouses. Professional Advanced Analytics earn between $149,901 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230255.

Microsoft Corporation currently has the following openings in Los Angeles, CA (opportunities available at all levels, e.g., Principal, Senior and Lead levels). To access job posting, visit website address listed.

Revenue Intelligence Analyst: Dvlp reports, dashboards, tabular models & analytical insights to drive biz success. Telecommuting permitted ≥50%, but <100%/wk. Salary Range: $112,245 to $142,245. http://jobs-microsoft.icims.com/jobs/32510/job

Multiple positions available. Some positions req travel and/or permit telecommuting. For details (if applicable), including job descriptions & min reqs, salary range & benefits info, and how to apply, access job posting using website address listed. EOE.

Senior Advanced Analytics needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to gather, analyze, and interpret a wide variety of data to identify casual relationships, trigger points, and predictions on customer behavior, subscriber churn and financial impact. Senior Advanced Analytics earn between $159,000 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230252.

Senior – Data Analyst needed by DIRECTV, LLC in EL Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] gather and mine large scale of structured and unstructured data and validate data by running various data tools in the big data environment. Our Senior – Data Analyst's earn between $146,460 - $174,570 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230241.

Senior Financial Analyst for Coupang Global LLC in Riverside, CA to create & maintain Operations WBR to measure productivity, safety & quality. Req Master's or foreign equi deg in Business Analytics, Statistics, Supply Chain or related field & 2 yrs' exp in job offered or related occupation. Will also accept Bachelor's & 5 yrs' progressive, post-baccalaureate exp in job offered or related occupation. Salary range: $125,080.00-$154,000.00/yr. To apply submit resume to resumes@coupang.com. Ref 114105-000030

Employment

Senior Data Analyst sought by Endpoint Technologies, LLC in El Segundo, CA to build and grow our data platform, data warehouse and data products. BS or foreign equivalent + 6 yrs. exp. *Telecommuting Permitted*. Salary $116,085 to $170,000 / year. Send resumes to: clcarter@firstam.com, EOE.

Senior- Advanced Analytics needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to provide analysis and insight to ensure customers are treated proactively before they contact our call centers. Senior- Advanced Analytics earn between $140,063 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230287.

ANIMATION Staff Artist US/foreign B.A. or equiv, 1 yr exp req. Send CV to Possible, Inc. 129 Llewellyn St, LA, CA 90012

Architect Associate: U.S. or foreign Masters or equiv. and 1 yr. exp. Mail resume to: Sunstone Two Tree, LLC (formerly Sunstone Properties Trust, LLC), 2820 Townsgate Rd, Ste 207, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

Architectural Designer(s) for Architectural/Engineering firm in Los Angeles, CA. Requires a Bachelor's degree in Architecture or related field and 1 year experience coordinating interior space planning and architecture project development from schematic design through construction documents including performing 3-D modeling and rendering using Revit, Rhino, SketchUp and Enscape; developing master plans; coordinating existing building scanning; developing procurement and construction documents; conducting materials and code research; assisting in Construction Administration; developing schematic, design development & construction document drawings; and creating 3D animations using Enscape. Salary range for position is $70,000 to $80,000. The position is with CannonDesign located in Los Angeles, CA and works under the direction of a licensed architect. Inquire and send resume through CannonDesign's Career Opportunities website page at http://www.cannondesign.com/contact/careers/ Position is under Architectural Designer for Los Angeles, CA under Job ID LAARCHIBG523.

Principal- Solution Architect needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to provide overall architectural leadership and expertise in the creation of technical solutions that address business needs of work efforts. Principal- Solution Architects earn between $192,400 to $232,415 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230243.

3D Artist: US Bachelors or foreign equiv. Mail resume to: Gradient Effects, LLC, 6382 Arizona Circle, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Senior Concept Artist. Lead the concept art team for the development of video game project. Req. Bach. in Animation, Design, Telecom. Engineer., or rel. field or foreign equiv. & 2 yrs exp in job or 2 yrs exp as Artist, Environment Concept Artist, or rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Wage range: $125,400/yr to $161,500/yr. Send resume ref# 22109 to K. Finnsson, Blizzard Entertainment, Inc, PO Box 18979, Irvine, CA 92623

Senior Concept Artist. Lead the concept art team for an online game project. Req. 2 yrs exp in job or 2 yrs exp as Artist, Concept Artist, or rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Wage range: $180,000/yr to $233,500/yr. Send resume ref# 22128 to K. Finnsson, Blizzard Entertainment, Inc., PO Box 18979, Irvine, CA 92623.

International Purchasing Agent. Req'd: 2 yrs. exp. as Purchasing Manager, Purchasing Agent, or rel. Res: Kum Kang Trading U.S.A., INC. 6433 Alondra Blvd., Paramount, CA, 90723

Associate General Counsel (Santa Monica, CA): Support and protect the organization by problem-solving, providing legal and compliance advice, drafting precise agreements and processes. $190,000/yr. Resumes: HR, LFG NFTS, Corp. dba Autograph, 3130 Wilshire Blvd., Fl. 4, Santa Monica, CA, 90403.

Employment

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Receive payments, issue receipts/refunds, etc. Salary is $29,536 per year. Send resume to: Job Site at ALWAN INC, 2960 W BROADWAY, LOS ANGELES, CA 90061.

Production Clerk for wholesale bakery. Mail to Renaissance Bakery, 14540 Friar St., Van Nuys, CA 91411.

Associate Head Coach, Men's Tennis: Reqs BS/MS in sports sci/mgmt or rltd w/exp incl 2 yrs coaching NCAA D1 tennis team. Must be authorized to work F/T in US without employer sponsor. Up to 30% US/Int'l travel. Pay scale $85,150-$88,000 / yr. Location Malibu CA. Email resume to Pepperdine University, employment@pepperdine.edu

Senior Data Engineer needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to gather, analyze, and interpret a wide variety of data utilizing a variety of statistical methods to support Data Analysts and Business Users. Senior Data Engineers earn between $172,432 to $211,255 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230272.

Employment

Lead Manager eCommerce needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to engage in analytics and behavior of online customers, quantifying any problems and communicate complex information effectively and clearly. Lead Manager eCommerce's earn between $131,670 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230242.

Platform Support Engineer II needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to develop and maintain company-wide integration application, which receives, transforms and allows consumption of data between various 3rd parties and Xandr Ad-IP (Advertising-Integration Platform). Platform Support Engineer IIs earn between $148,531 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230244.

Platform Support Engineer II needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to develop and maintain company-wide integration application, which receives, transforms and allows consumption of data between various 3rd parties and Xandr Ad-IP (Advertising-Integration Platform). Platform Support Engineer IIs earn between $148,531 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230244.

Principal Product Designer sought by ODS Technologies LP (d/b/a TVG Network) in Los Angeles, CA to be responsible for large or multiple smaller product verticals or team sub-sets & provide operational/ strategic leadership to UX & Design team. Minimum of Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Computer Science, Software Engineering, or rltd + 4 yrs exp in job offered or rltd occupations required. Interested candidates send resume by email to johnathan.moersdorf@fanduel.com. Ref job code H5715-00023 ($173k to $248k)

Senior - App/Prod Support needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to tune and configure applications and infrastructure components and perform application monitoring and response, application problem management and resolution, application change management and implementation, and scheduling. Senior- App/Prod Supports earn between $143,437 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230247.

Senior Specialist - Software Engineer needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to collaborate to gather and review software requirements/user stories, provide estimates, create software design specifications and collaborate with engineers/ architects to assess and test hardware and software interactions. Senior Specialist-Software Engineers earn between $133,640 to $144,210 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230239.

Senior Systems Administrator sought by AltaMed Health Services Corporation in Los Angeles, CA. Bachelor's or equiv plus 5 yrs exp. (7 yrs w/o Bach) in related field. Send resume to: Jessica Moreno, HR Generalist, 2035 Camfield Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90040 or e-mail jemoreno@altamed.org.

Employment

Professional Software Engineer needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to collaborate to gather and review software requirements and user stories. Professional Software Engineers earn between $156,682 - $174,570 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230260.

Senior Specialist -Software Engineer needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to collaborate to gather and review software requirements/user stories, provide estimates, create software design specifications and collaborate with engineers/ architects to assess and test hardware and software interactions. Senior Specialist-Software Engineers earn between $133,640 to $144,210 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230239.

Software Engineer II needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to design ETLs to deploy large data sets on our cloud centric platform used to power our analytics. Software Engineer II's earn between $169,051 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230273.

Experian Information Solutions, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Analytics Consulting Consultant Expert to serve as an analytical consultant for complex client deliveries/ implementations. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Pay range for this role is $140,000.00-$161,312.00, with actual pay based on work location, job-related skills, experience and education. Role incl. variable pay and comprehensive benefits. Send resumes and benefit inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at amy.harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.481

Experian Marketing Solutions, LLC in Costa Mesa, California is seeking to fill the position of Principal Technical Consultant to provide consultancy and mentoring to clients on how to best to use EDQ products to meet their business requirements. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the US. Pay range for this role is $100,980 -$128,597, with actual pay based on work location, job-related skills, experience and education. Role incl. variable pay and comprehensive benefits. Send resumes and benefit inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at amy.harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.225

Cook short order, prep. pizza, pasta. Resume: LI&S Inc DBA Ameci Pizza & Pasta 21110 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, CA 91311

COOKS PAKISTANI & INDIAN FOODS (Several Positions): Preparation/cleaning and cooking of lamb, goat, chicken, fish and vegetables for Pakistani & Indian dishes. Prepare spices/curries/maintain /operate Tandoori oven. Wages $15.50 per hour. Send Resume to : Job Site: AK Food and Catering, Inc dba Aashiyana Restaurant, 245 Gentle Springs Lane, Diamond Bar, Ca 91765

LINE COOK
Prepares food items to specified recipes and standards, etc. Salary is $30,763 per year. Send resume to: Job Site at CRAVE STUDIO INC, 11992 VENTURA BLVD, STUDIO CITY, CA 91604

Patient Coordinator: Bachelor's Degree in Any Major req., $46,010/yr, F/T, Resume to Young Yi Park, Sierra Home Healthcare Services, Inc., 1063 N. Chicago St. Los Angeles, CA 90033

COUNSELOR Educational Counselor Consult Chinese students w/ their US undergraduate & graduate school admission. 9-6, 40h/w, Master dgr in Edu, or other fields or its foreign equivalent & 2 yr wk exp in job required or as educator in related fields.
heydayculturemedia@gmail.com

Junior Associate Attorney
IvyCrest Attorneys, APC seeks a Junior Associate Attorney. Requirements: JD or LLB + U.S. LL.M, California State Bar License. You will: Review and manage case files; research law; draft pleadings; investigate facts; advise clients; attend court hearings. Job Location: Chatsworth, Los Angeles, CA.
Email resume to: ivycrest@ivycrestlaw.com

Employment

Clarity Services, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Data Modeling Analyst II for Working with large data sets to prepare them for all aspects of a direct mail campaign, including basic formatting, file transfer, and running quality checks. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Pay range for this role is $76,100.00-$114,819.00, with actual pay based on work location, job-related skills, experience and education. Role incl. variable pay and comprehensive benefits. Send resumes and benefit inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at amy.harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.5

DELIVERY SERVICE DRIVER Arlasal seeks 10.5k lb-truck driver for last mile deliv. in Anaheim. 40hr/wk. Reqs: 9 mo exp, CDL, clean DMV & lift 50lbs. 3 openings. Mail resume: Arlasal, 12323 Roscoe, Sun Valley, CA 91352

Dental Clinic Manager: Req'd: Bachelor's in Pre-Dentistry, Biochemistry or rel. Mail Resume: Dr. Eugene J. Lim, D.D.S., Inc., 680 Wilshire Pl. Suite 411, LA, CA 90005

Assistant Production Designers (Inflatables) seek by Magic Jump, Inc. (Sun Valley, CA worksite): to use 2D patternmaking & 3D modeling for design & manufacture of inflatable jumpers. Req'd BA + 6 mos using any of the following: CorelDRAW, Rhino 3D or PatternSmith. Salary: $54,683 - $65,000/year. Resumes to S. Bagumyan, General Manager, 9165 Glenoaks Blvd, Sun Valley, CA 91352. Must reference job title & job code: MJ0503, when applying.

Design Specialist for Architectural Projects: US or foreign Masters or equiv. Mail resume to: Marmol Radziner & Associates, 12210 Nebraska Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

Game Designer. Create compelling & immersive gameplay with innovative, memorable, & impactful moments. Req. Bach. in Game Design, or rel. field or foreign equiv. & 1 yr exp in job or 1 yr exp as Designer, Asst. Producer, or rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/ or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Woodland Hills, CA. Wage range: $81,411.20/yr to $124,000/yr. Send resume ref#22102 to K. Finnsson, Activision Publishing Inc, 2701 Olympic Blvd, Bldg. B, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Agile Dev Team Member III to contribute to development design/ testing &/or deployment of system functionality. Remote work option. Salary: $147,410/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 19284

Director; perform director's duties: f/t; Bachelor's in Biological Engineering or relevant + 5 yrs exp. as Director or job related; Resume: STEMCELLBIO INC., 416 Hindry Ave., Ste E, Inglewood, CA 90301.

Hyperloop Technologies, Los Angeles, CA --Director, Program Management and Controls-Lead product development program of multiple integrated product teams producing complex systems & technologies for Hyperloop transp system; respon for delivery of products on schedule, scope & budget; supervise analysis of info, product solution formulations & strategies for product devel. Reqs: Bach's deg in mechanical, aerospace or civil engrg; min. 6 yrs' exp. working on multidisciplinary engrg & construction teams in transp infrastructure industry; incl 3 yrs' exp. in high dollar ($500MM+) public/private partnerships. Send resumes to: Sofia Vasquez hrc@hyperloop-one.com

HopSkipDrive seeks Dir. of Marketplace Strategy in Los Angeles, CA to dev system of incentives to stimulate supply & dev analytical tools. Req: BS in Industrial Eng, Supply Chain Mgmt, or rel + 1 yr exp in e-commerce and demand planning. $130,000/yr. Email resume w/ad to peopleops@hopskipdrive.com. Attn: HR/AA.

Product Director sought by ODS Technologies LP (d/b/a TVG Network) in Los Angeles, CA to oversee & define product strategy, vision, objectives for all Sports Betting products, directing Product Managers to create/drive roadmaps aligned to overall strategy. Minimum of Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Management Information Systems, Business Technology or rltd + 3 yrs exp in job offered or rltd occupations required. Interested candidates send resume by email to johnathan.moersdorf@fanduel.com. Ref job H5715-00040 ($166k to $248k)

Electronic Drafter: Draft PCB layout for RF products; 2-yr exp. req'd; $67870/yr; Send resume to GigaTera Communications: 1818 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831

Electrical Engineer for prototypes of electronic control systems of various devices @ $77,584/yr. Mail to Assign Corporation, 200 N Maryland Ave., #204, Glendale, CA 91206

Barista (Job Site: L.A., CA), J&S FRENZ, INC. Salary $40k/yr, Send resume to 5770 Melrose Ave. L.A., CA 90038

Full Stack Engineer, Back End (Science 37, Inc; Culver City, CA): Design, build, optimize, and scale the backend of the Science 37 platform. Telecommuting from anywhere within the U.S. is allowed. Salary: $140,000 - $165,000 per year. Send resumes to: Katie Norris, Science 37, Inc., 600 Corporate Pointe #320, Culver City, CA 90230

Employment

Database Reliability Engineer II. Sought by UVNV Inc. dba Ultra Mobile in Costa Mesa, CA to maintain the core infrastructure & drive reliability across our d/bases of our d/base Systems. Req.: BS/for eq. + 3 yr. exp. *Telecommuting permitted. SALARY: $81,370 - $140,000/yr. Resumes to: Rosa Corral, HR Generalist, rosa@ultra.me REF: SCJ-23.

Consumerinfo.com, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of DevOps Senior Engineer to deploy, document, and support cloud platform capabilities using AWS best practices (fault tolerant, High Availability, security, etc.). Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Pay range for this role is $130,000.00-$161,312.00, with actual pay based on work location, job-related skills, experience and education. Role incl. variable pay and comprehensive benefits. Send resumes and benefit inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at amy.harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.133

Electrical Engineer 2 sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Newbury Park, CA: Development of receivers for wireless devices. Salary: $94,494 - $132,600/ year. Email resumes: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Job Code: CA0323FM.

Engineering Technician 4 sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Newbury Park, CA: Perform RF test setups. Salary range: $53,581 - $102,000 / year. Email resumes to Angela Ho: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: Job Code: CA0422JC

ENGINEERING
Dolby Laboratories, Inc. has an opening in Burbank, CA for Senior Engineer, CMS Technology to build the tools needed to bring Dolby Vision to home cinema, TV, and theatres. Telecommuting permitted. Wage range: $134,000 – 155,100 per year. Ref job code C#6493625 & mail resume to: Dolby Laboratories, Inc., Attn: HR-MS 14th Floor, 1275 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

ENGINEERING
TigerConnect, Inc. has the following job opps. in Santa Monica, CA: Software Engineer III [Req. #SWE54]. Operate as a SW Release Lead. Telecommuting from anywhere in the U.S. accepted. Salary: $102,544 to $122,544 per year. Manager, Data Engineering [Req. #MGD73]. Understnd & anlyze bsnss reqs & come up w/optimal data solutns. Telecommuting from anywhere in the U.S. accepted. Salary: $205,733 to $225,733 per year. To apply email resumes referencing Req. # to rleavitt@tigerconnect.com

Field Clinical Engineer II (Valencia, CA) – Responsible for implementation of various clinical studies. May require to travel/telecommute. Salary: $90,355 to $105,000 per year. Send resumes to: Sarah Okusanya, Boston Scientific, application@bsci.com. Ref: H4872-00890. EOE

Lead- Big Data Engineer needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to develop data product strategies that define how data products will be stored, consumed, integrated, and managed within a data mesh environment. Lead- Big Data Engineers earn between $209,010 to $255,530 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230240.

Senior Design Engineer (Northstar Cabinet Construction, Inc.; Gardena, CA): Engineer, design, draft, and place millwork into production. Salary: $54,683 – $74,200 per year. Send resume to: Bruce Cleveland, 17925 S Broadway, Gardena, CA, 90248.

True Peak Soundworks seeks a Sound Engineering Technician in Culver City, CA: Set up, operate, and maintain hardware and software for media programs. Maintain familiarity in both production and post-production sound environments E-Mail resumes:
james@truepeaksound.com

SameSky Health Inc. in North Hollywood, CA is seek'g a Sr. Software Engineer to dsgn & dvlp hi quality, scalable, custom sw solut'ns. No trvl; WFH bnft. Salary: $168,000/yr. Send resumes to: SameSky Health, Inc., ATTN: HR, 5200 Lankershim Blvd., Ste 310, North Hollywood, CA 91601.

Vision enhance't & tech. manufacturer looking for SW Validation Engr. to participate in design reviews & entire SW Dev't Life Cycle (SDLC) Req: Bachelor's in Comp. Sci, or rel, or foreign equiv't, plus 5 yrs. exp. in job offered, or as a Lead, or rel. Exp. must include in SW dev't lifecycle such as design documentation, process models, process decomposition diagrams, data models, data flow diagrams, entity relationship & network diagrams, hands-on exp. with regression, unit integration, sys. & post implementation testing; in-depth knowledge of SW QA, design control, & verification & validation tools, methodologies & regulations; in-depth knowledge of GMP & QSR reqs for med. device manufacturers. Salary: $118,150 - $130K/yr. Jobsite: Monrovia, CA. May work from home within Great Los Angeles area.Work Auth. req'd if hired. Send resume to: STAAR Surgical Co., 1911 Walker Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016. Principals only.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

SAYFHL
○ ☐ ○ ○ ☐ ☐

RATEMP
○ ☐ ○ ☐ ☐ ○

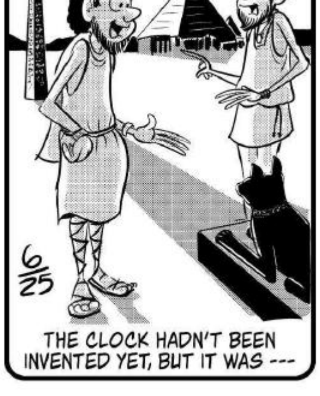
TBANTE
☐ ○ ○ ○ ☐ ☐

NIJADO
☐ ☐ ○ ○ ☐ ☐

MUDPIO
☐ ☐ ☐ ○ ○ ○

NETETX
○ ☐ ☐ ○ ☐ ○

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble


Have you noticed how this shadow is in the same place at this time every day?
We could track where the shadows are at certain moments during the day.
6/25
THE CLOCK HADN'T BEEN INVENTED YET, BUT IT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

○○○○ ○ ○○○○○○ ○○ ○○○○

PETS

MARKETPLACE
To advertise your pets, log on to placeanad.latimes.com/pets-for-sale
Los Angeles Times

Dogs

BOSTON TERRIER 4 AKC Males Born 04/02/23 Avail now Well marked Sweet despositions Vet checked First shots 2200 **8057296881**

LABRADOR RETRIEVER Silveroselabs.com AKC Black, Chocolate, Silver & Charcoal Pups Shots/Wormed/Microchipped/Guarantee InfosilveroseLabs@gmail.com **559 246-0676**

Dogs

Mastador (English Mastiff x Lab) Puppies: Great Family Dogs. Delivery. www.MastadorPuppies.com **320-267-8034**

GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER Puppies, males, 9 weeks old, health certified. AKC registered **5593590568**

LABRADOR RETRIEVER AKC Chocolate Lab puppies M/F, 10 weeks old, shots and health screening completed, Raised in a family home with children. $1800. **805-404-1369**

JUMBLE

Answer:

FLASHY TAMPER
BATTEN ADJOIN
PODIUM EXTENT

The clock hadn't been invented yet, but it was —
JUST A MATTER OF TIME

JOBS

MARKETPLACE

latimes.com/placead | To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Los Angeles Times

Employment

Liminex, Inc., dba GoGuardian has the following jobs available in El Segundo, CA:
Manager, Partnerships (Req.# 21-1666): Create partnership strategy across product, engineering, marketing & advocacy aligned w/ company's long-term strategic vision. Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Or BS(or equiv.)+5 yrs. exp. Salary: $195,936.00 - $225,326.40 per annum.
Software Engineer, Backend (Req.# 21-14877): Build systms to solve new problems. Display strong judgement in selecting methods techniques & evaluation criteria. Telecommuting an option. Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Or BS(or equiv.)+5 yrs. exp. Salary: $174,250.00 - $200,387.50 per annum.
For the below, Telecommuting permitted:
Software Engineer, Full Stack (Req.# 21-6182): Build systms to solve new problems. Display strong judgement in selecting methods, techniques & evaluation criteria. Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Or BS(or equiv.)+5 yrs. exp. Salary: $167,520.00 - $192,648.00 per annum.
QA Engineer III (Req.# 22-15417): Work w/ team to test new features across multiple operating systms & devices. Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Or BS(or equiv.)+5 yrs. exp. Salary: $125,000.00 - $143,750.00 per annum.
Submit resume w/ ref. to: (include Req. No.) at: ATTN: Joseph Lisuzzo, jobs@goguardian.com.

Photonic Design Engineer. Telecommuting available. Job location Goleta, CA. Send resume w/this ad to Code 2399-PDE, L. Bae, Quintessent, Inc., 120 Cremona Drive, Suite 155, Goleta, CA 93117

Worley Group, Inc. seeks Principal Electrical Engineer to work in Monrovia, California to lead the development of energy, renewables, oil, gas, and/or chemical plants electrical and power system design, construction, and commissioning. California PE License required. 5% travel to project sites required. Offered wage: $146,619 to $181,199 per year. Submit resume via e-mail to US.Postings@worley.com. Must put job code MON00WT on resume and subject line.

Quality Engineering Manager: Est. & implmnt qlty tstng prcdrs, systms, & prdctn prcss to ensr qlty, fnctnlty, & reliablty of undercar prdcts. Reqs: Bachelor's deg in Industrl Eng, Mech Eng, or rltd fld & 3 yrs exp in job offrd or rltd postn. Skills/knwldge in Minitab, ERP S/W, MS Office, MS SharePoint, Kaizen, Lean Mnfctrng, Qlty Core Tools, & IATF16949. Lttl Trvl–24%. 40 hrs/wk. Salary: $89,650.00-$95,000.00/yr. Job Site: Torrance, CA. Email Resume to: Motorcar Parts of America, Inc. at: jobs@motorcarparts.com.

Consumerinfo.com, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Senior AWS DevOps Engineer to collaborate with engineering teams to identify Platform needs and issues. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Pay range for this role is $147,410.00-$161,312.00, with actual pay based on work location, job-related skills, experience and education. Role incl. variable pay and comprehensive benefits. Send resumes and benefit inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at amy.harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.386

Sr. Software Engineer needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to lead innovation to create a robust tools and technology architecture that supports all platform engineering efforts. Sr. Software Engineers earn between $166,400 to $211,255 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230269.

Deluxe Media, Inc. is hiring a Tech. Project Mgr. to ensure on-time & within budget delivery of products & projects within Deluxe Technology & Engr. Group. Reqs. Master's in Engr. Mgmt., IT Mgmt., Comp. Sci., or rel. 2 yrs. exp. in job offered, or rel, exp. to include tech. project mgmt., knowledge of Agile/Scrum; familiarity with project mgmt. SW/tools, such as MS Project, JIRA, Confluence, Monday.com, etc. – (Sony New Media Solutions, Infosys BPM). Location: Burbank, CA. Telecommuting is optional benefit of employ't. Employee may live anywhere in these U.S. states - AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, ID, IL, KS, LA, MA, ME, MI, MO, NH, NC, NJ, NM, NY, NV, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TN, TX,UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WY. Salary range $85K to $130K. Mail resume: 2130 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505, attn, C. Hammell. Principals only. EOE.

Dassault Systemes Americas Corp. seeks a WW Online User Success Engineering Manager in Woodland Hills, CA to provide technical service to customers regarding cloud platforms. $80,000 to $100,000 per year. Apply @ https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/application/19719/apply

Employment

Senior Big Data Engineer needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to gather, analyze, and interpret a wide variety of data utilizing a variety of statistical methods to support Data Analysts and Data Scientist. Senior Big Data Engineers earn between $176,118 - $255,530 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230263.

Senior Software Engineer needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to architect, design, build, and support cross-platform client apps through integrating to high-performing backend services. Our Senior Software Engineer's earn between $173,518 - $232,415 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services.Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230267.

Happy Money, Inc. seeks the following positions in Torrance, CA. Telecommuting is permitted:

Senior Software Engineer: Responsible for engineering, developing, implementing, and maintaining software products. Bachelor's+5 yrs exp. Salary: $160,000 per year to $240,000 per year. Job code: C2-754372.

Software Engineer: Write and maintain software for the administration and management of loans in a distributed network. Master's+3 yrs exp. Salary: $140,000 per year to $210,000 per year. Job code: C2-85175383.

Data Engineer: Enterprise Data Orchestration - Develop and maintain the infrastructure required for optimal extraction, transformation, and loading of data from a wide variety of data sources. Master's+3 yrs exp. Salary: $120,000 per year to $180,000 per year. Job code: C2-65832538.

Software Engineering Manager: SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE: Make detailed plans for the development of new software products and designs. Bachelor's+5 yrs exp. Salary: $140,000 per year to $210,000 per year. Job code: C2-59302954.

Send resumes to HR at hmjobs@happymoney.com, must refer to job title and job code.

Senior Specialist - Software Engineer needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to design, develop, test, deploy, troubleshoot, and maintain applications with a focus on automation. Senior Specialist-Software Engineers earn between $146,930 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230245.

Solution Engineer needed by DJI Creative Studio in Burbank, CA. Investigate and diagnose mechanical failures; offer remedial engineering solutions; work with mechanical blueprints, technical schematics, engineering project management software, and computer-aided design software to drive solution development; implement end-to-end mechanical solutions and workflows; mitigate risk via technical evaluation of prospective partners. Req. BS in Mechanical Engineering; knowledge of Engineering System Dynamics, Web Services Development, Software Testing, Computer Vision Applications, Data Analysis and Classification, and Optic Sensing Systems. Salary $72,089-211,370/yr. Send resume to tiffany.d@dji.com.

Envision Diagnostics, Inc (Torrance, CA) has mult. openings for a Sr. Software Engineer resp. Mnge & direct development of software & algorithms used to automate medical device which directly interacts with a human subject. Deploy software algorithms to be used in embedded hardware platform for real-time inference on live images of subject's eyes. Mnge & direct line relevant metrics to eye care providers. Deploy these algorithms in embedded hardware platform for quasi-real-time determination of the parameters. Req. MS in relevant field+ 1 yr of relevant exp in Embedded Software Engineering, System Software Engineering. Use of Rust Programming Language, Xilinx Vitus Platform, Yocto, Free RTOS, OpenAMP/Libmetal. Send Resumes to Attn: HR - 3625 Del Amo Blvd. Ste, 100, Torrance, CA 90503

Employment

Senior System Engineer needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to add reliability to engineering infrastructure and increase the total efficiency of engineering and develop code in Java, ReactJS, Groovy, and Jira. Senior System Engineers earn between $167,980 to $232,415 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230238.

Senior System Engineer needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to translate business needs into technical solutions and define solutions to problems through reasoned application of information technology. Senior System Engineers earn between $167,969 to $232,415 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230264.

Sr Software Engineer for Oscar Management Corporation (Marina Del Rey, CA). Resp for leadg the dvlpmt of website user interface, platforms, & backend srvcs & directg the dvlpmt of new features & functns for insurance apps such as virtual care systems, apptmt schedlg platforms & patient data platforms. Reqs a Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Comp Sci or a reltd field & at least 5 yrs of progrssvly resp exp as a Sftwr Engnr or closely reltd role. In the alt, employer will accept a Master's degree or foreign equiv in Comp Sci or a reltd field & 3 yrs of experience as a Software Engineer or closely related role. Prior exp must incl: Gathering & analyzg biz reqmts for insurance or health care delivery apps; Writg sftwr documntatn & design documntatn; Dvlpg user interfaces & prjct bkend; Support sftwr dvlpmt projcts thruout the sftwr dvlpmt lifecycle, Monitrg system perfrmnce & fixg reprtd or potential bugs; writing regression tests for complex system interactions and implement monitoring for runtime verification; Utilizing Javascript, React, Python, Flask, Kubernetes, GRPC technlogies, & Jira & Monday.com for managing sftwr prjcts. Telecomm permitted up to 100%. Salary range: $ 147,410-$203,940. Send res via email to saugustus@hioscar.com Must ref 6803586 in subj line.

ENGINEERING Structural Project Manager DCI Engineers, Los Angeles, CA: Resp. for coord the engr workload, mentor colleagues & produce high qual doc on projects. Min reqs: MS in civil or structrl engr & 3 yrs post-bac exp in a civil or structrl engr occp. Alt, BS (U.S. or foreign equiv) in civil or structrl engr & 4 yrs post-bac exp in a civil or structrl engr occp. Basic pay is $128,045 to $132,000 annually for full time employment & stand. comp. benefits (see https://www.dci-engineers.com/careers/benefits).
Email resume to lhenshaw@dci-engineers.com w/ ref. to Job ID: UG0423DCI. No calls.

Arc Boats, Inc. seeks Vehicle Engineers in Inglewood, CA to create, modify & release detailed 3D CAD of the Arc One boat using Siemens NX & Teamcenter. Pstion reqs BS or foreign equivlent in Mechanical Eng, Aerospace Eng, or rltd & 2 yrs exp in job offered or rltd occ. Salary: $110K to $150K. Snd CV to work@arcboats.com w/ ref # KKP2023CA.

Howard Contracting seeks Estimator/Project Manager in Hawaiian Gardens, CA: Attend pre-bid meetings & site tours; analyze blueprints, specifications, proposals. Email resumes: Eric Palacio, epalacio@howard contracting.com

FASHION Fashion designer Fashion Designer is needed at Snapwize Inc. d/b/a Tote&Carry in South El Monte, CA at https://www.totencarry.com/pages/careers
Alan@totencarry.com

Financial Analyst for Pasaca Capital Inc., Master in Finance or Financial Engineering. Salary: $79,789/Year. Rsm to HR at 800 E Colorado Blvd, #888, Pasadena, CA 91101

Real Estate Financial Analyst (Arcadia, CA) to perf. mkt. conds. rsrch. for real estate proj's. economics & investment opps. Master's deg. in Bus. Admin. or Finance req'd.; Fluent in Mandarin, int'l. travel req'd. Send resume to employer: AXBP Corp., 255 E Santa Clara St, Ste 210, Arcadia, CA, 91006 Attn: Rui Zhao

You're connected.
Los Angeles Times latimes.com.

Employment

Manager, PwC Private Generalist (Mult Pos), PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Hlp prvt cmpns to imprv their oprtn effcncy by addrsng their bus advsry needs, such as audit & tax cmplnc. Req. Bach's deg or foreign equiv in Acct, Fin, Bus Admin, Tax or rel + 5 yrs post bach's prgrssv rel wrk exp; OR a Master's deg or foreign equiv in Acct, Fin, Bus Admin, Tax or rel + 3 yrs rel wrk exp. Cert req: U.S. CPA license, Enrolled Agent, or foreign equiv. 80% telecommtng permitted. Mst be able to commute to designated local office. Trvl up to 60% req. Salary $117,500 - $117,500/yr. Apply by email at US_PwC_Career_Recruitment@pwc.com, referencing Job Code CA3751.

Meta Platforms, Inc. (f/k/a Facebook, Inc.) has the following positions in Los Angeles, CA: Content Analyst to Develop research and measurement methodologies for measuring audiences and evaluating the success of content published on Facebook and Instagram and consumed by people around the world. 15 % domestic travel required. (ref. code(s) REQ-2306-122919: $149641.76 - $176000).Software Engineer to Develop, design, create, modify, and/or test software applications or systems for various products or software services. (ref. code(s) REQ-2306-122882: $198940 - $235000). Software Engineer to drive the development of the systems behind Meta's products, create web applications that reach billions of people, build high volume servers and be a part of a team that's working to help people connect with each other around the globe. (ref. code(s) REQ-2306-123058: $163,660.00 - $194,000.00. Individual pay is determined by skills, qualifications, experience, and location. Compensation details listed in this posting reflect the base salary only, and do not include bonus or equity or sales incentives, if applicable. In addition to base salary, Meta offers benefits. Learn more about benefits at Meta at this link: https://www.metacareers.com/facebook-life/benefits For full information & to apply online, visit us at the following website https://www.metacareers.com/jobs & search using the ref code(s) above.

Assistant Graphic Designer: F/T; Create original graphics & illustrations for women's apparel; Salary $41,579/yr: Resume: Dress Forum Inc., 3812 S Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90037

Chief Technology Officer (Web Design and Consulting Services Inc.; Woodland Hills, CA): Establish the company's technology vision. Salary: $205,733 – $280,000. Send resume to: Tykia McGriff, 6320 Canoga Ave, Suite 200, Woodland Hills, CA, 91367

Mult IT jobs. All req. travel/reloc.
(JC39) Sr. Security Engr-MS/equiv & 1 yr exp incl. SailPoint, CybrArk, Ping, Ms Azure AD, REST, SOAP APIs, MySQL, Workbnch, Tableau, Oracl, Java, JSP, XML, Shell, NIST, ISO, GDPR, PCI, & HIPPA. $124,987/yr.
(JC40) Sr. Solutions Engr – BS/equiv & 5 yrs of exp incl. 1 yr w/ Sprng Boot, JavaScrpt, Selenium WebdrivrlO, Mocha Framewrk, Chai assertion, SuperTest, NodeJS, DevOps, Dockr, Kubernets, & REST API's. $137,738/yr.
Send résumé w/ JC# to Saviynt, Inc., 1301 E. El Segundo Blvd, Ste D, El Segundo, CA 90245

Suzuki Piano Instructor @ Claremont Community School of Music at 951 W Foothill Blvd, Claremont, CA. JD: Prov Indiv piano instr use Suzuki Piano Method (SPM) for beg intermed & adv stud; Prov small ensemble & group lesson use SPM; Use Dalcroze Method in music teach; Eva plan & exec specific lesson plans based on SPM for stud. Arr & org stud & faculty recitals.
Prep stud for reg & nat comps. Dev, plan & partic in music fests & other music events. Recr, aud place new stud referrals. Coord sch's oversea music ex prog & summer camp. Facil comm amg stud, parents & sch staff. Req Lic: Certified Suzuki piano teacher- Piano Unit 5 or above.
Sch offer ½ tuition reimb for Suzuki training or job-related studies for all employees & qualified candidates. Req Ed: BA in piano pedagogy or closely related field. Foreign equiv edu ok. Job Reqt: Min 1yr indiv piano teach exp for beg intermed & adv stud use SPM. Min 1 yr group/ensemble instrt exp use SPM. Min 1 yr music teach exp use Dalcroze Method. Min 1 yr exp piano course desi & eval use SPM. Demo adv ability use online & computer synchronous audio pltf to direct real-time audio collab. Demo exp w/ nat level event/comp train & rehearsal.
$68349/yr. Email mkeating@claremontmusic.org.

International Communications Manager: Support PR/mktg across US/global offices. Reqs Bachelor in PR, Comms or eq field + 5 yrs exp incl 2 yrs in int'l comms and PR for Asian mkts. Must be authorized to work F/T in US without employer sponsor. Up to 6% US/int'l travel. Hybrid remote. Pay scale: $84,972.30-$116,711.43/yr. Location: Los Angeles CA. Email resume w/"ref. ac196" in subject to University of Southern California, Adminhr@usc.edu

Employment

Jewelry Sample Maker: 40 hrs/wk, 2 yrs exp. req'd. $52,000/yr. Mail/email resume: Sevana Gold Jewelry - 1811 W. Glenoaks Blvd., #B, Glendale, CA 91201. sevanagj@gmail.com

Director of Legal Operations at Hespera Jewelry Company, LLC (Redondo Beach, CA). Collab. w/ ext. counsel, manage all legal affairs initiatives from end-to-end: strategic presentations, negotiation, prospecting plans, drafting standard forms & service agreements, proposals, amendments & NDAs. $136,000 - $156,000. Send resume to support@hesperadesigns.com

Logistics Engineer: Assist in designing operational solutions for prjcts. Req. Bachelor's or equiv in Industr & Systs Engg., Supply Chain Mgmt. or rel. $55,370/yr. Mail resume: Elite Logistics Corp, 927 S Santa Fe Ave, Compton, CA 90221

Automotive Service Manager (Orange, CA). Monitors automotive technicians' daily productivity reports; leads service department program on Computer Automotive Diagnosis, & other mgmt duties. Requires 2 yrs exp. as Service Mgr. Exp. must include working with Computer Automotive Diagnosis, Telematics, and Remote Access technology, as well as working with modules for remote access & telematics. Mail resume to Michael Kompleski, Business Mgr., Mazda of Orange, 1360 W. Katella Ave., Orange, CA 92867.

Director – Product Management needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to prioritize and lead product management, automation and leadership. Lead a team who triages and resolves ad delivery technical issues and ad playout across digital platforms and devices such as: desktop, mobile, tablet, set-top box, connected devices such as Chromecast, Samsung Tizen, FireTV, Roku and tvOS. Our Director – Product Management's earn between $205,733 to $ 281,060 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230258.

Lead Product Management and Development needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to manage the product development process for large and complex products, services, and enhancements including new and emerging products, technologies, and applications. Lead Product Management and Developments earn between $164,800 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230248.

Elevance Health, Inc. seeks a Manager II Technology in Woodland Hills, CA to define and manage the scope of business systems projects and create feature test strategies. May require occasional domestic travel. Salary: $145,000 to $155,000 per year. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com Ref #57319.

Manager, Product Education at CreatorIQ in Culver City, CA: Develop, plan & coordinate marketing programs to optimize usage of products/services. $138,432 per year. Can work remotely from anywhere in U.S. CV to: tiffany.melo@creatoriq.com

Bain & Company, Inc. – Los Angeles, CA – Senior Manager – Manage teams providing management strategy consulting services for clients. Oversee the formulation and implementation of strategic recommendations to improve the performance of Bain's clients. Act as the day-to-day project leader and central point of communication within Bain and with the client. Req. MS+2/BS+5. Travel to client sites as required for client consulting projects, to establish needs and present recommendations.Overnight travel may be required. In California state, the good-faith, reasonable annualized full-time salary range for this role is between $222,000 - $234,500/year, placement within this range will vary based on several factors including, but not limited to experience, education, licensure/certifications, training and skill level. Multiple positions available. Submit resumes via www.bain.com/careers - enter code 'LA-SRM-2022A(2)i' in the "Additional Comments" field of the application. No phone calls. Bain is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Senior Manager, Finance (Nexon America Inc.; El Segundo, CA): Oversee all accounts and reporting systems to ensure compliance. Salary: $131,400 – $197,10 per year. Send resume to: Christina Kim, 621 Hawaii St., El Segundo, CA 90245.

Employment

Solar Project Mgmt Specialist: Req'd: BA in Biz, Biz Econ, or related. $62,500/year. Mail Resume: Electri-Tech Services, Inc. 19481 San Jose Ave., City of Industry, CA 91748

Irradiant Partners LP is hiring Vice President, Liquid Investments to provide internal guidance reg potential invt decisions& ongoing monitoring& analysis of portfolio invts. Reqs Bachelor's or foreign equiv in Business, Econ, Fin, or rltd + 3 yrs exp as Financial Analyst or rltd. Exp must incl: dev cash flow model for CLO return; Bloomberg d/b, extraction & monitoring; MS Excel; Intex; Moody's Analytics; Hub Markit; Markit IHS; Covenant Review;& stress& scenario analyses. Worksite: Santa Monica, CA. Salary: $79,789 - 176k. Email resume: hr@irradiantpartners.com. Principals only. EOE

MEDIA WORKER: Req. Any AA/AS Wage $64,376/Yr. Mail resume: Hope Church of SDA 2335 S. Diamond Bar Blvd. Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Medical Imaging Representative. Promote & sell MED imaging srvcs. Reqs: 1 yr exp in job offrd or rltd med sales postn. Skills/knwldge: Sales, negot, & lead mgmt., healthcare & med sci. Salary: $69,222.00/yr Job Site: Woodland Hills, CA. Email Resume to: F&M Radiology Medical Center, Inc. at bellafrmc@aol.com.

Quality Care Improvement Specialist opening for Network Medical Management Inc (Alhambra, CA worksite): conduct organizational studies & redesign clinic-based care delivery to imp. patient experience. Req'd MA + prev. academic coursework to include health policy or HEDIS measures. Hybrid remote position & can be performed anywhere within commuting distance to the office at 1668 S. Garfield Ave, 2nd FL, Alhambra, CA 91801. Salary: $84,533 - $86,000/year. Apply online @ https://www.networkmedicalmanagement.com/careers & search the relevant job title & ID: NMM0525.

Office Clerk: Answer calls, sort mail, & other basic office tasks. No exp. needed. Salary range: $35k - $45k/yr. Mail resume to Fantasy Designs 23136 Arroyo Vista, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688.

Operations Special Projects Mngr. for Ruggable LLC – create actionable insights affecting mfg., supply chain, new business, tech & other teams. Salary: $97,344-$105,000/yr. Reqs: MS+1 yr exp. Jobsite: Gardena, CA. 100% Telecommute w/ trips to HQ in Gardena, CA, 4-6x/yr. Email resume: recruiting@ruggable.com

Order Clerk: Verify customer and order information for correctness, etc. Annual Salary: $34,902. No Exp. Rqr'd. Send resume to VERY J INC., 727 E Pico Blvd. #1, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Product Director, Racing sought by ODS Technologies LP (d/b/a TVG Network) in Los Angeles, CA to oversee product strategy, vision, objectives for all Racing products, directing Product Managers to create/drive roadmaps aligned to overall strategy. Minimum of Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Scientific Research, Product Development or rltd + 4 yrs exp in job offered or rltd occupations required. Interested candidates send resume by email to johnathan.moersdorf@fanduel.com. Ref job H5715-00027 ($196k to $248k)

Product Manager needed: Send resume to 317 Labs, Inc. 8605 Santa Monica Blvd. PMB 57093, West Hollywood, CA 90069. Telecommuting/remote work is permissible. The primary worksite is Employer's headquarters in West Hollywood, CA and various unanticipated locations as assigned.

Property Manager of commercial properties needed @ $34,403/yr. Mail to Excel Property Mgmt Services, Inc., 9034 Sunset Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

QUALITY SYSTEM SPECIALIST
Wholesale of health care products in Gardena, CA. High School Diploma and 2 years of experience as a Quality System Specialist or related is req'd. Annual Offered salary is $58656.00. Mail Resume: U.S. Jaclean, Inc., 1816 W. 135th Street, Gardena, CA 90249: Attn: Ms. Yoshida

CSS Payroll Co, L.P. (Los Angeles, CA) seeks Real Estate Development Managers to provde stratgic plannig, prjct mgmt & finc'l ovrsght in new bld real estate dvpmt projs. Reqs Bach in Civil or Structural Engg or rltd fld +2yrs exp in pos offrd or Real Estate Dvlpr or Real Estate Assoc/Anlyst pos. All reqd exp mustve incld wrkng w/ local & state levl laws & regs re Real Estate Dvpmt; ngotiate LOI & PSA for new prorty acquistns; wrk thru var real estate dvpmt prcesses incl acquistn, undrwrtng, permittng, dsgns, cnstrctn; ovrsee team of vendrs undrtakng var tasks incl brokrs, legal counsl, permttng consultnts, & dsgn firms. Telecommuting is permttd from any US locatn. Mult pos open. Salary $120,000-140,000/yr. E-mail res to: catarino.ruiz@cloudkitchens.com.

Employment

Knowledge Management Advisor (Legal Research) LA, CA. Legal/factual research & analysis; create/manage digital resources & KM web pages; manage training programs; Salary Range $89,000/yr to $145,000/yr; Apply to professionalrecruiting@sheppardmullin.com Job Code ET0623

Research Analyst (Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; Los Angeles, CA): Research, gather, accumulate, organize, clean, summarize, and analyze a wide variety of data for research projects. Salary: $61,000 - $97,000 per year. Send resumes to: Charles Bugarin, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, 1731 E. 120th Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90059.

Restaurant Manager needed. Mail to Anarbagh, Inc., 22721 Ventura Blvd, Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Salesperson: sell aroma lamps, oils/African, incense, etc. Job Loc: Los Angeles, CA. Mail resume or apply in person: Attn: HR-Ref.#16136, Family Imports, 7609 1/2 S Western Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90047

Senior Scientist Developer for pharmaceutical modeling and simulation software and services company located in Lancaster, CA. Position duties are designing, developing and implementing process simulation software using object-oriented C++ to model and predict results of chemical processes using computational modeling techniques including performing requirements analysis and functional decomposition, unit & integration testing; and providing technical documentation & implementation support. Position requirements are a Master's degree in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering or a related field and 3 years experience in the job duties as stated. The salary range for this position is $120,000 to $140,000. The position is managed out of Lancaster, CA headquarters but allows the individual to live anywhere in the U.S. and allows for the option to work from a home office. The position requires 20% travel to various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. Send resume to Simulations Plus, Inc. by email to Lindsay Luke at lindsay.luke@simulations-plus.com. Please indicate SSD in response.

SECURITY

SECURITY
$15-$18.50 hr no exp nec. will train, pt/ft all 3 shifts in LA , OC. 8a-6p 7 days.
Montebello 323-889-1922

Skechers USA, Inc. is seeking a Principal Software Engineer in Manhattan Beach, CA to design, develop, test, & maintain high quality technology solutions for global e-commerce business & digital marketing. Must have a Bachelor's degree, or foreign equiv, in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or a closely related field + 5 yrs post-baccalaureate exp as an Engineer performing software engineering. Salary: $169,500 to $194,500 / yr. To apply, please email resume to: talentacquisition@skechers.com.

Professional Software Engineer needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to Develop and support the video platforms used to power DIRECTV. Professional Software Engineers earn between $147,410 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230256.

Professional Software Engineer needed by DirecTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to assist in designing the applications using microservices architecture. Professional Software Engineers earn between $162,360 to $192,050 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230268.

S/W DVLPR
Cornerstone OnDemand, Inc. has an oppty for a Sr Prncpl S/W Engr. $186,300.00/yr to $239,200.00/yr. May wrk from our HQ office in Santa Monica, CA or reside anywhere in the US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at other US locatns not prsntly known. Email resume w/Ref# SMOPO to recruitment.to@csod.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

Software Developer (Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; Los Angeles, CA): Develop database-backed web applications and develop and maintain a web portal housing informatics research resources for university faculty and researchers. Salary: $100,000 - $140,000 per year. Send resumes to: Charles Bugarin, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, 1731 E. 120th Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90059.

Employment

S/W DVLPR
City National Bank has an oppty in Los Angeles, CA for a Full Stack Sr Engr. $165,000.24/yr to $187,843.50/yr. Email resume w/Ref# LAVAMY to TalentAcquisition@cnb.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

Senior Software Engineer needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to design, develop, test, document and deploy high quality business solutions on the Salesforce platform. Senior Software Engineers earn between $175,525 to $232,415 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at http://att.jobs/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230246.

Sr. Software Engineer I (Los Angeles, CA) - for 1661, Inc. dba GOAT. Dsgn & implmt new features across multiple backend apps. Play key role in a team setting to enhance both backend apps & building out new, scalable service-driven architecture. Must pass company's standard technical test. May work remotely anywhere in the U.S. $148,500-$205,000/yr. Apply online at https://www.goatgroup.com

Data Scientist Supervisors @ Anchor Loans, Westlake Village, CA. Dvlp & implmnt data analytics to provide insights & solutions for property purchasing & borrowing trends. Part-time telecom ok. Sal: $160k. Apply: hr@anchorloans.com; Subj: Job ID# DSS526, Attn: D. Falcon.

Language teacher. Teach English in non-academic school. Resume: Oh Fuji, Inc. 244 S. San Pedro St, #501, LA, CA 90012

Montessori Teacher: teach Montessori ed program to 2.5-6 y old classrm; serve meals & keep daily recs. HS dip; AMS Montessori Cert for ages 2.5-6 & CPR cert req. Mail res. to: The Paper Boat, Inc. dba Keystone Montessori School, 6639 Blake St, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Visual Arts Teacher (Harvard-Westlake School; Los Angeles, CA): Teach four unique semester courses per year in video storytelling, graphic design, and foundational studio art. Salary: $96,500 - $101,500 per year. Send resume to: Marisol Ordonez, Harvard-Westlake School, 3700 Coldwater Canyon, Studio City, CA 91604

Senior Business Systems Analyst - IT (Woodland Hills, California): Analyze & evaluate business needs & provide technical direction & recommendation to create & develop new system functionalities. Work with annuity; annuity retirement products; Policy Administration System (Navisys) & product implementation; Software Development Life Cycle through Waterfall & Agile methodologies; insurance domain with emphasis on retirement products & Annuity Product Build; Agent licensing, appointment, client & agent reporting; integrated systems relationship management; system & technology alternatives; developing & executing SQL queries; MS Office tools; & Selenium scripts, including JIRA, Confluence, & GIT. Req's Bachelor's degr plus 5 yrs exp or 7 yrs exp. CSM (Certified Scrum Master) certification required. Salary: $136,157 - $136,157 per annum. Email resume to michelle.visconti@corebridgefinancial.com or mail resume to American General Life Insurance Company, Ref# D57AIGCA, Attn: Michelle Visconti, 30 Hudson Street, Floor 19, Jersey City, NJ 07302. No phone calls.

Deviation Games, LLC, seeks a Senior Technical Artist for a position in El Segundo, CA. Qualified applicants must have a MS and 1 year of experience. Teleworking is permitted. This position is paid at an annual rate of $145,000 to $215,000. Qualified applicants apply through LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/3623811791

Senior-Scrum Master needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to guide a Scrum team on how to use Agile and Scrum practices and how to get the most out of self-organization. Senior-Scrum Masters earn between $205,733 - $205,733 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230249.

TECHNOLOGY
Apple Inc. has multiple positions available in Los Angeles, CA. Refer to Req# & email resume to jobadv@apple.com: Software Development Engineer - Applications (REQ#8483631) Bild vsual effcts (VFX) wrkflows on future unrlsd Apple prdcts to mke better products fr Apple's cstmers. Dmstic trvel rquird 20%. $144,500.00 - $217,500.00/yr. Apple is an EOE/AA m/f/disability/vets.

Employment

Technical Solutions & Corporate Business Development Strategies, SSD & Server Memory sought by Kingston Technology Company, Inc. in Fountain Valley, CA to evaluate the corporate strategy for sales teams in Mexico, Central & S. America. BS or foreign equiv. + 7 yr exp. $136,947 - $140,000: resumes to denise_stevens@kingston.com. EOE.

Principal - Solution Architect needed by DIRECTV LLC in El Segundo, CA (& various unanticipated locations throughout the US; may work from home) to provide overall architectural leadership and expertise in the creation of technical solutions that address business needs of work efforts. Principal- Solution Architects earn between $192,400 to $232,415 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R230251.

TECHNOLOGY
BlackLine Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Senior Cloud Data Engineer in Woodland Hills, CA (Ref. #AHSD). Build and maintain tools to automate data modeling and data quality checks. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: $155,000 -$185,000. Mail resume to BlackLine Systems, Inc., HR Department, Tamara Saltzman, 21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Resume must include Ref. #AHSD, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

TECHNOLOGY
BlackLine Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Senior Software Engineer in Woodland Hills, CA (Ref. #RAYS). Provide technical expertise and leadership in the design, development, and delivery of company's products, while adhering to timelines, coding standards, requirements, and quality. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: $160,000 - $190,000. Mail resume to BlackLine Systems, Inc., HR Department, Tamara Saltzman, 21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Resume must include Ref. #RAYS, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

TECHNOLOGY
BlackLine Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Product Manager in Woodland Hills, CA (Ref. #YAKV). Work closely with Agile-based teams to ensure incremental and net new features/products align with product vision and market demands. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: $140,000 - $170,000. Mail resume to BlackLine Systems, Inc., HR Department, Tamara Saltzman, 21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Resume must include Ref. #YAKV, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

Film Agent: bach or forgn equiv in filmmkng, TV prod., media comms, or relatd; + 2 yrs exp. Use exp w/ fin/com analysis of entertnmnt projects, film industry investng, entertnmnt trade articles, film tax credit progrms, off-mkt screenings, + crit/creative eval of entertnmnt projects to support film prodctns, artists, performers. William Morris Endeavor Entertainment LLC, Beverly Hills, CA. F/T. $85K/yr. Send resume to apply@endeavorco.com RE: job 6391. No calls/agents/visa sponsorship.

Veterinarian, FT, South Pasadena, CA, $200000+. VCA Inc. kristin.fernandez@vca.com

Video Editor: Organize and string together raw footage etc. Annual Salary: $54,101. Bachelor's degree in film, filmmaking or a related is rqr'd. Send resume to World Mission University: 500 Shatto Place Ste 600, Los Angeles, CA 90020

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School district's diversity plan under fire

A San Diego County church has been mobilizing opposition to inclusion initiative.

By Kristen Taketa

Nelvin C. Cepeda San Diego Union-Tribune

DOZENS of people signed up to speak about the Carlsbad Unified School District's proposed diversity and inclusion plan at a school board meeting Wednesday. The board ultimately agreed to delay a vote on the plan.

SAN DIEGO — The Carlsbad Unified School District's proposed diversity and inclusion plan is the latest initiative to come under fire from people who don't want to see LGBTQ+ matters discussed in public schools.

Dozens of people signed up to speak on the draft plan Wednesday at the Carlsbad school board meeting, which ran for five hours. Roughly 250 people, separated into sections for and against the plan, packed the Sage Creek High School auditorium.

The board ultimately agreed to delay a vote on the plan because board President Ray Pearson was absent because of a medical emergency. The panel will take up the proposal at its next regular meeting on July 19, officials said.

Much of the opposition against the district's plan has come from the Mission Church, a Christian house of worship in Carlsbad Village. The church's pastor, David Menard, has told his congregation that LGBTQ+ issues do not belong in schools because he believes they harm students, are inappropriate for young children and distract from core academic subjects.

"The Carlsbad Unified School District is wanting to bring in what is called DEI ... it is really a name for an LGBTQ sexual agenda, LGBTQ curriculum, LGBTQ indoctrination on our students," Menard said during a June 11 service.

Supporters of the plan say that equity initiatives are needed for all students to feel welcome and included on campus, and that critics are showing bias against LGBTQ+ people by ignoring or condemning their identities.

"That makes me sad that there are some folks who would prefer to not acknowledge that families look different and come in all shapes and sizes," Carlsbad Supt. Ben Churchill said in an interview.

Months of conflict

Carlsbad is one of many suburban or majority-white school districts across the country that have become embroiled in fights over whether public schools should teach about and support people of color and LGBTQ+ people.

In San Diego County, such debates have caused conflicts in districts including Coronado Unified, Poway Unified and Ramona Unified over the last three years. In Los Angeles County, protests have erupted in Sun Valley and Glendale over LGBTQ+ Pride events and education.

Carlsbad's 16 schools serve about 11,000 students, less than a third of whom are socioeconomically disadvantaged, which is less than the county average. More than half of students are white, about 27% are Latino, 10% are multiracial, 5% are Asian and 1% are Black.

In March, Carlsbad educators' attempts to create the district's first ethnic studies course came under fire from parents who had protested COVID-19 school closures and a local group that has led opposition to school racial equity efforts across the county. The school board approved the high school ethnic studies film course but not without first eliminating mentions of institutional racism and "white Eurocentric dominant culture" from course materials.

Then in May, more controversy erupted after Carlsbad High School Vice Principal Ethan Williams was recorded speaking at a meeting of the Mission Church, where he has been an active member. Williams encouraged churchgoers to attend Carlsbad's diversity plan input sessions and call for no "sexual identity or gender ideology curriculum, groups or celebrations" on campus, according to a recording of the meeting that was widely circulated online.

"It's not because we're bigoted, it's not because we're afraid of trans people. We love them and we see the harmful impacts that this is having on our kids," Williams said in the recording.

Williams could not be reached for comment.

On May 22, Churchill condemned the comments in the recording.

"I wholeheartedly disagree with the comments made, and condemn those comments as they are in conflict with California Education Code and our board's 2021 resolution in support of LGBTQ+ students and staff," Churchill wrote. "It is essential that we create a supportive space where LGBTQ+ students and staff feel valued, respected, and free to express their authentic selves."

Two weeks later, the school board held a special meeting about "significant exposure to litigation" but took no action.

Churchill declined to comment on Williams' employment status because it is a personnel matter. The school district has not taken any action on Williams' employment status, according to the school board's personnel reports.

In the last week of May, the Carlsbad Unified school board declined a proposal to raise the Pride flag and delayed a decision on the matter, prompting protest from scores of students.

The 'why' behind the plan

The origin of the diversity plan goes back years, according to Churchill, when the district heard from groups of students that they don't always feel safe or welcome on campus.

In surveys taken this spring, about 85% of students who responded said they feel welcome at school.

But that number dropped when looking at students of racial groups that are not white or Asian. For example, only 77% of Black students said they feel welcome; 83% of Latino students said so.

About 88% of students overall said they believe their school supports students of all races, ethnicities and skin colors, but fewer believe their school supports students of all socioeconomic backgrounds (78%), sexual orientations (81%) and religions (83%).

"It remains clear that some groups of students feel that we have more work to do," Churchill said. "An accommodation that we're making to ensure better access for one group ultimately positively impacts all groups."

The diversity plan draft includes almost 40 components, a mix of new efforts and ones the district has already been implementing.

One new effort would be implementing the Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate program, an antibullying and antibias curriculum used by more than 1,800 schools nationwide, according to the program's website. In the program, schools convene their own committees that organize campus activities about diversity, inclusion or social justice.

The plan also includes efforts to address grade disparities among student groups by reviewing practices like grading, homework, attendance and advanced course access that may put certain student groups at a disadvantage.

The diversity plan would convene several committees, including student committees at every school and a districtwide advisory committee to monitor and ensure implementation of the plan. The committee memberships would probably be chosen by school principals, Churchill said.

At the urging of board trustee Elisa Williamson, who said she has reservations about the diversity plan, the board agreed that committees would include people with different viewpoints and include faith-based groups.

Altogether the plan would cost $419,000 in the upcoming school year, most of it paid for with state grants designated for teacher training, officials said. The bulk of that money will go toward staff training and hiring a staff member liaison who will ensure the diversity plan gets implemented.

Whether or not the plan gets approved by the board, Churchill said the district will continue its work in regard to diversity and equity, such as offering training to interested teachers.

Different viewpoints

At Wednesday's meeting, critics said that they don't see evidence that diversity, equity and inclusion efforts work, and that they are more divisive than helpful. They suggested that LGBTQ+ identities are ideologies rather than realities. And some critics suggested they are the ones experiencing bias based on their faith and traditional values.

"Not everyone's feeling welcome, safe and included," said Tyler Brown, who has four kids in the district. "Let's work together and find something we can all agree on."

Supporters of the diversity plan have questioned why one church's beliefs should have influence on a public school district's decision-making.

Some noted that many people speaking against the diversity plan are not in Carlsbad Unified schools and are not part of the groups that the plan is trying to help.

"I see a lot of white people saying there's no problem when children of color have said in the survey that they don't feel they belong," said Caroline Theiss-Aird, whose children and grandchildren graduated from Carlsbad schools.

And some said they believe critics are ignoring the fact that students of color and LGBTQ+ students have experienced bias or harassment.

"I'm frankly scared seeing the way people have belittled the experiences of both me and my friends and classmates who have been harassed and bullied on campus," said Ayden McDaniel, a recent graduate of Sage Creek High School. "Please listen to your students. Please understand that the people you are not hearing are the people you need to focus on the most."

The Mission Church's requests to the district are to eliminate any "sexual and gender ideology" from Carlsbad's curriculum and to show more transparency regarding curriculum, campus activities and parents' rights. For example, some church members have taken issue with the fact that educators cannot tell parents if their child is transgender.

State law prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools. According to the California Department of Education, state antidiscrimination law also affords transgender students a right to privacy and educators cannot tell students' parents about their gender status without the student's consent — something many advocates say is necessary for students' safety for fear of backlash from parents.

Taketa writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Metro bus driver in Venice is knifed; man held

By Jeremy Childs

Los Angeles police arrested a 60-year-old man suspected of stabbing a Metro bus driver Thursday afternoon in Venice.

Mark Charbonneaux was arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, police said.

The stabbing occurred near Main Street and Venice Way around 2:05 p.m., according to police.

The driver had stopped the bus and exited to check on part of the vehicle's exterior.

Authorities say the attacker, without provocation, took a 4-inch folding knife and stabbed the driver in the back, then fled into a nearby business.

Before officers arrived, a security guard had used pepper spray on the suspect, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

A knife was recovered by law enforcement.

The driver was described as stable, authorities said.

"Metro is angered and saddened to hear about this heinous act of violence and is providing support to our employee and his loved ones," Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesman Dave Sotero said in a statement. "We will work closely with the LAPD to investigate this incident and are grateful for their swift action in arresting the suspect."

The assault was the second stabbing of a bus driver in a month.

On May 24, a 61-year-old Metro driver suffered life-threatening injuries after he was stabbed by a 17-year-old boy over an argument about fare evasion.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Traci Park, whose district includes Venice, said Thursday that "violence on public transit is out of control."

"Today's stabbing incident involving a Metro bus driver is deeply concerning," she said in a statement. "We need more police and security officers present to keep our drivers and riders safe. The people who commit these crimes must be held accountable."

As The Times reported in May on the growing number of assaults against Metro bus drivers, the agency is attempting to curtail such incidents by installing floor-to-ceiling plastic walls that fully encase the driver.

The barriers were being tested on about 20 buses.

"We're [trying] to mitigate the vulnerabilities that exist right now where a patron or someone doing the assault still has access to the operator," said Robert Gummer, a Metro deputy executive officer.

Anyone with information related to Thursday's incident is asked to call the LAPD's anonymous tip line at (877) 527-3247.

Times staff writer Rachel Uranga contributed to this report.

Another black bear is killed on a freeway near Castaic

By Nathan Solis

A bear was killed Thursday evening while crossing the 5 Freeway near Castaic, the second such fatality in the area in a week, according to authorities.

The black bear was struck by multiple vehicles around 10:30 p.m. on the 5 Freeway at Templin Highway north of Santa Clarita in Los Angeles County, said California Department of Fish and Wildlife spokesperson Tim Daly.

The agency does not know the bear's gender or place of origin, Daly said, but biologists have collected hair samples to catalog the animal in a statewide database.

On Monday, a black bear cub was killed on the 14 Freeway near Soledad Canyon Road northeast of Santa Clarita, according to the California Highway Patrol. The cub was struck by at least two vehicles; one of the drivers stopped to report the collision, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Additionally, a black bear was struck and killed June 1 on the 5 Freeway near Gormon, about 30 miles north of Castaic, Daly said.

"It seems like there have been more of this happening around that area," Daly said. "One possible reason is that the bear population in the Los Angeles County region is higher. There are more of them out there."

The three bears were killed on highways adjacent to the Angeles National Forest.

State officials say the total number of bears struck by vehicles may be underestimated, because not all collisions are recorded. Law enforcement is not obligated to contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife when a wild animal is struck by a vehicle, Daly said. The agency is hoping to increase its contact with law enforcement to better document these incidents.

Wildlife experts say there is no single reason why so many black bears are trying to cross highways around the same area. Earlier this month, a black bear strolled along the beach in Malibu after coming down from the Santa Monica Mountains. That bear was unharmed after it frolicked near the ocean.

Toogee Sielsch, an expert in urbanized black bears, said animals that live in close proximity to humans tend to understand traffic.

"Urbanized bears actually know how to stop, look, listen and then cross," said Sielsch, who has studied wildlife around South Lake Tahoe.

When a bear family tries to cross the road, the mother may go first, after making sure it's safe. She will cross and wait for her cubs on the other side, but the cubs tend to bolt out whenever they feel comfortable, Sielsch said.

"That's what happens a lot when we have cubs hit and killed by cars," he added.

Irfan Khan Los Angeles Times

A BLACK BEAR wanders along a road in Arcadia. Two were killed last week on freeways near Castaic.

The bears killed near Castaic could be unfamiliar with traffic or reacting to the unusual weather over the last year, including extreme heat and record-breaking snow and rainfall, said Beth Pratt, regional executive director with the National Wildlife Federation. The bears could also be thrown off course if someone has installed a fence along their usual route, Pratt said.

"Whatever it is, like any wildlife, they're going to follow the food," she said.

The nonprofit National Wildlife Federation raised millions of dollars for a wildlife crossing over Highway 101 to bridge the Santa Monica Mountains to the Simi Hills. The effort was inspired by mountains lions who trek across freeways in search of food or a mate.

Pratt said the bear strikes near Castaic raise concerns about the need for a wildlife crossing in that area.

"Whatever the motivation for their crossing, these deaths just underscore why these roads are such a hazard to wild animals," Pratt said. "Developments are increasing, roads are getting bigger, there's more traffic on the roads. We are further encroaching on their habitat."

A setback for San Diego's efforts to stem sewage

By Joshua Emerson Smith

SAN DIEGO — Hundreds of millions of federal dollars set aside to address the sewage pollution from Tijuana that has plagued San Diego's southern shoreline for decades will fall well short of what's needed to get the job done, according to a new assessment.

Elected leaders in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had secured $300 million to double the capacity of a federal wastewater plant in San Diego that treats sewage from Tijuana. The project is part of a binational effort to stem cross-border pollution that since last year has closed shorelines as far north as Coronado at a record pace.

However, before the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant can be upgraded, it will probably need as much as $150 million just to pay for deferred maintenance, according to a government memo recently obtained by the Union-Tribune.

"It's a nightmare scenario," said Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre. "We secured the funding only to find out that at least half will have to go to rehabilitation of the plant."

Mayors from across the San Diego region have joined Aguirre in calling on the Biden administration to declare a state of emergency over the pollution and fast-track more spending. Revelations about the extent of repairs needed at the plant have now cemented the need for that additional cash.

"Everybody's urging the state and federal administration to really prioritize this," she said. "People are getting sick. We're going to have a summer with tourism impacted. That's exactly why I've been calling for a state of emergency."

The U.S. section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, which operates the facility, confirmed the accuracy of its document but declined multiple requests to comment.

Agency officials have until now downplayed the situation, recently telling the Union-Tribune that such maintenance would cost just a "few million dollars."

"We're starting to catch up on the maintenance and the repairs," Morgan Rogers, operations manager for the water commission in San Diego, told the newspaper in late May.

Aguirre said she was blindsided by the recent revelations, especially since she had been asking federal officials about the state of the plant for months.

KEEP OUT
SEWAGE CONTAMINATED WATER
EXPOSURE MAY CAUSE ILLNESS

Alejandro Tamayo San Diego Union Tribune

A SIGN WARNING of sewage-contaminated water is posted along the southern part of Imperial Beach. "It's a nightmare scenario," said Mayor Paloma Aguirre.

"They sidestepped the question," she said. "I didn't get a straight answer."

Tijuana's crumbling wastewater system has suffered several pipeline breaks and other challenges over the last two years, a situation compounded by last winter's heavy rains. Federal officials said more than 33 billion gallons of sewage and chemically tainted water have flowed through the Tijuana River into San Diego so far this year.

The international wastewater plant in San Diego has provided a backstop for Mexico by routinely taking more wastewater than it was designed to handle.

But that's taken a toll on the aging facility, which first came online in 1997. The plant's five primary treatment tanks have been frequently clogged with sewage, garbage and sediment — discharging tens of million gallons a day of partly treated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean.

As a result, the International Boundary and Water Commission's damaged facility has racked up numerous clean water violations, according to San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board.

"You can only run a car so hard for so long without going to a service shop before it fails on you," said Dave Gibson, the water board's executive officer, "and that's where they're at right now."

Many of the plant's key components "should have been replaced many years ago," he added. "When you buy cheap, you pay twice."

Mexico has agreed to spend about $144 million to address the cross-border pollution, in part to replace its own crumbling wastewater plant, San Antonio de Los Buenos. The facility, about six miles south of the border, spews an estimated 35 million gallons of raw sewage a day into the Pacific Ocean, which routinely pollutes San Diego shorelines.

Both countries will now need to spend significantly more to complete all the upgrades by the target date of 2027.

Reports of Tijuana sewage leaking into the San Diego region stretch back to at least the 1930s. Though significant improvements were made in the 1990s, the city's plumbing hasn't kept up with population growth.

Emerson Smith writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Establishing a $20-million fund for prescribed burns

[**'Good fire,'** from B1]

to restore the historical balance by encouraging more intentionally set fires and has set a goal of 400,000 acres a year by 2025.

"We really need to restore fire as a process on our California landscape," said Lenya Quinn-Davidson, director of the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Fire Network and a member of the working group that developed the pilot program.

Private liability insurance that would cover these burns is prohibitively expensive or unavailable, putting the people overseeing them on the hook for potential damage costs. Although the U.S. Forest Service estimates the rate of escape to be less than 1%, the liability is a deterrent to doing more of the work.

The liability claims fund, which was rolled out recently, provides up to $2 million in coverage for up to 200 projects at a time. In order to qualify, burns must be led by a certified burn boss or a cultural fire practitioner. By Friday afternoon, 20 projects had applied and 17 had been approved.

"For prescribed fire practitioners, it's a huge deal," said Len Nielson, the prescribed fire and environmental staff chief at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, who is in charge of greenlighting the applications. "We are doing something brand new in hopes that it ends up with a real positive change for prescribed burning and cultural burning."

The pilot, set to expire in 2028, will also enable the state to gather information about the rates of escape and damage, as well as the benefits of burns, he said. That may alleviate the need for the program altogether.

"We want to show insurers that it is a low-risk type of event when a certified burn boss or cultural burner conducts a prescribed burn or cultural burn," Nielson said. "And so if we can document that with the data, then we're hoping that attracts the insurers back to the marketplace in California."

The working group that developed the program guidelines also included representatives of Indigenous tribes, the state Department of Insurance, the Nature Conservancy and trade associations.

One stumbling block they had to overcome was that the legislation creating the program states that each project chief must submit a burn plan for review and approval by Cal Fire in order to qualify. But cultural practitioners often don't use burn plans, and requiring them to do so would infringe on tribal sovereignty.

So the group came up with a compromise: cultural practitioners can instead include a description of the burn in their application.

"It's still not perfect," said Don Hankins, a professor at Cal State Chico and cultural burn practitioner. "What we tried to come up with is some language where people could basically say what the conditions would be like when they're burning."

Ron Goode, chairman of the North Fork Mono tribe and a cultural burn boss, was also involved in the talks. He said the compromise is a good start, but more needs to be done to overcome the racist legacy of laws that targeted Indigenous people who use fire.

"Even today, I have elders and tribal people who tell me, I shouldn't be burning because we're going to get in trouble with the government simply because they know what happened when their grandparents put fire on the ground," he said. "So these kinds of rules and laws that the colonists and settlers put forward when they first got here are still in effect as far as how people feel about it."

The program builds on the work of several other key pieces of legislation that have put California on a trajectory to become a leader in the use of good fire. A bill passed in 2018 mandated the development of a state-certified burn boss program.

In 2021, California changed its liability standard so that people overseeing prescribed and cultural burns would in most cases not be billed for fire suppression costs if a burn were to escape control. That legislation also exempted cultural practitioners from needing to have a written prescription, a key element of a burn plan, approved by a burn boss in order to meet the liability standard.

Another bill introduced by Dodd would enable the secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency to enter into agreements with federally recognized tribes to exempt them from some state permitting and regulatory requirements related to cultural burning. It would also establish a cultural burn working group.

Dodd, who has sponsored roughly a dozen wildfire resilience bills, said he was spurred to action in 2017, when he was evacuated from his Napa home as the Atlas and Tubbs fires ravaged the county.

"It really shifts your view," he said. "I never expected in my wildest imagination that all things wildfire, Cal Fire, fire suppression, fire prevention, insurance, utility-caused fires — all these different things were not even part of my legislative work at all. And then overnight, that all changed."

There is still more work to be done for California to meet its burning goals. Several experts identified the No. 1 remaining hurdle as training and workforce development, including empowering tribes, communities and underrepresented groups to be a part of the work.

Quinn-Davidson is also part of an interagency group working to develop a proposal for a prescribed fire training center, which was mandated by legislation passed in 2021.

"We can pour money into these issues, but if we don't have people to do the work, we're not taking it where we need to go," she said.

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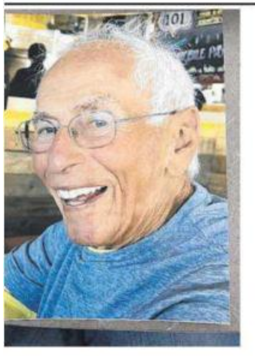

Arnold Pompan

February 16, 1927 - June 5, 2023

Arnold "Arnie" Pompan was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 16, 1927 to Romanian immigrants Irving and Sophie Pompan, an only child. Arnie's early years were spent growing up on the streets of New York City. His parents moved frequently throughout the City. Arnie recently recalled living in nearly twenty apartments prior to his 16th birthday, and 80 years later he was able to rattle off almost every street address from memory. In all respects he was a child of the Depression. He grew up a scrappy but brilliant young man, who learned to survive and thrive on his wits. Early on, he developed into a fierce competitor in all aspects of his life.

At age 16 Arnie boarded a Greyhound bus bound for Bloomington, Indiana and he started Indiana University on a scholarship. His college education was interrupted by his service in the U.S. Army during WWII, when he was selected for Officer Candidate School. Ultimately, Arnie graduated from college with an economics degree and soon after a master's degree in economics. Arnie started a doctoral program and contemplated becoming an economics professor.

While in his early 20's, some life events occurred that changed Arnie's trajectory. He followed his parents out to San Francisco, transitioned from academia into apparel industry sales in Los Angeles, and after moving to LA, went on a second date with a young, beautiful woman named Lillian Stone who Arnie had been introduced to several years earlier in San Francisco. By 1954 he and Lillian had married, and Arnie had taken on a new sales job.

Arnie and Lill were blessed with four children, Steven (1955), Stacey (1956), Donald (1959), and Bruce (1962). Arnie was also blessed with exceptional sales and business acumen, and throughout the 1950's, '60s, '70s and into the early '80s, Arnie achieved great success in opening and promoting children's clothing lines throughout the Western U.S.

Arnie and Lill raised their young family in Encino in the late '50s through the '70s. At that time and place, the confluence of excellent weather, a burgeoning group of neighborhood kids, an abundance of sports fields and courts, and an explosion in the popularity of tennis – all fueled by Arnie's fierce competitiveness, as well as the proclivities of his three sons—resulted in Arnie's morphing into a mentor for his boys as they developed into tennis stars. All three blossomed as tennis players and benefited, in so many ways, from his mentorship.

Arnie's competitiveness could not be quenched through his business success and the mentorship of his sons alone: As his sales career began to wind down, Arnie started pursuing real estate investing, first as an avocation and ultimately as a full-time business activity. And by the mid-1970's Arnie and Lill had both begun playing tennis socially, as early members of Braemar Country Club in Encino. Ultimately, by Arnie's 70th birthday celebration in 1997, he announced to the gathered family, including Lill, his children, their spouses, and his young grandchildren, that his new goal was to become a ranked, competitive tennis player on the senior tour. His was an audacious but fitting goal for such a driven man. Arnie had never even taken one tennis lesson.

His lack of training proved to be of no barrier as what Arnie lacked in technique he made up with hustle. Arnie's persistence turned him into what tennis friends and competitors referred to as a "human backboard"—always getting the return. From 1997 onward, Arnie and Lill traveled the world, scheduling their itinerary around US and European tennis tournaments and even the Maccabiah Games in Tel Aviv. He transformed into a master strategist on the tennis court, notching multiple victories in senior singles tournaments throughout the U.S. and Europe. By age 85, he was ranked number one by the US Tennis Association in his age group! At the time of his 90th birthday in 2017 he again achieved the number one U.S.T.A. ranking. Arnie's life was the embodiment of the American Dream.

His last match proved most daunting. Diagnosed in early 2021 with congestive heart failure, he lost his final match on June 5, 2023, leaving us peacefully and surrounded by loving family at his home in Encino. Arnie is survived by his wife Lill, his children Steve (Risa), Stacey Sherman (Michael), Don (Marcia) and Bruce (Byrdie), along with nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Barbara Treiman Levitt

January 29, 19?? – March 26, 2023

Barbara Treiman Levitt was born in St Louis to Morris Treiman and Rae Klausner Treiman. Her early years took her from St. Louis to Arizona and finally to California. Frequent moves and many schools later, the family settled in West Los Angeles. She lived within a mile of her parents' home for the rest of her life. Whenever she would be driving home, she would always say "isn't this a beautiful neighborhood".

After she graduated from UCLA with a degree in design, she married the love of her life, Harry Levitt. They raised three daughters and led a life full of travel, adventure, and lots of fun. She had a successful career as an interior designer. She had an aesthetic soul and had impeccable taste. She was always well-dressed, whether in her jeans and pressed shirt or going to a black-tie event, she did it with style and elegance.

She made the world more beautiful for many people. She could have a party like no one else. Every holiday, the table was perfectly set and photo worthy. She loved to entertain and have fun. She made sure we all learned about the arts and culture with outings to the theatre and museums.

She was described by many as a force of nature. She was incredibly brave and when she faced adversity, she would pick herself up, dust herself off and move forward. She truly loved life. Although she admittedly could worry about everything, her worries never stopped her. We used to say our Mom had the busy gene, and had more energy than most.

After she retired, she treasured her time in Plato, making friends, learning, playing bridge, and helping them organize the Plato events and parties.

She will be greatly missed by many, but especially her family that she loved and that loved her. She is survived by her daughters Kathy Levitt (John Carnochan), Laurie Levitt (Andrew Soll), Susan Levitt Given (Stewart Given). She is also survived by her grandchildren Sara Carnochan (Andrew Radin) and Anna Carnochan (Ava Jardin) and three great-granddaughters Hattie, Freya and Alice Radin who brought her so much joy.

Our Mom passed away in her home, surrounded by her family.

Mom, the world is less beautiful without you, we miss you every day.

Donations in her honor can be made to the American Cancer Society, ACLU or Planned Parenthood.

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Los Angeles Times

Kangaroo rat a sign of healthier habitat

[**Kangaroo rat,** from B1]

species," meaning it has an outsize impact on its environment.

The animals cache seeds in their underground burrows. Those seeds that aren't eaten propagate into new shrubs and bushes such as manzanita, contributing to the health of the chaparral and open space preserve.

The buried seeds are also protected when a fire moves through the area, allowing them to take root in the charred, but now nutrient-rich, soil.

"Where we have K-rats, we have healthier chaparral habitat," Sharp Chaney said in an interview. "And that not only benefits the K-rats themselves but a number of other wildlife species that also rely on those plants and plant communities for food sources and shelter."

But the future remains perilous. The open space where the species endures is shrinking.

One of the reasons for that is the success of fire suppression efforts.

"For a long time, the state's official sentiment was all fire was sort of bad," said Ryan McCauley, a public affairs specialist with Midpen. "But I think that that understanding is evolving."

Wildfires can play an important role in balancing an ecosystem, thinning groups of larger trees and allowing smaller plants to flourish, creating habitat diversity.

"What we like to see, on a landscape level," Sharp Chaney said, "is a variety of habitats that support many different species and many different ecosystems."

Midpen

THE IMPERILED gopher-like critter bounds around like a kangaroo.

But with blazes being quickly snuffed out, forests of knobcone pines have encroached on the Sierra Azul preserve.

Researchers also recently discovered a San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat in the area. As its name suggests, that animal is more commonly found in forested habitats.

That "tells us that the habitat is changing through time and becoming more of a woodland and less of an open chaparral community," Sharp Chaney said, adding that "open manzanita-dominated habitat ... is really disappearing pretty rapidly."

The rediscovery of the kangaroo rat in the preserve is a reminder of the need for land preservation, he said. Ongoing research into the kangaroo rat, including population documentation and genetic testing, will help inform strategies for preserving the habitat to promote the health of the species.

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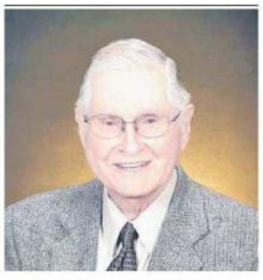


Terrence M. Anderson

May 6, 1930 -
June 11, 2023

Terrence Magilbra "Gib" Anderson, 93, of San Marino, CA, passed away peacefully and surrounded by his family on June 11, 2023, in San Gabriel, CA. Anderson was born in Longview, WA, May 6, 1930, the first born of six children to Claude S. Anderson and Henrietta (Dobler) Anderson. He attended grade school in Rose Valley, near Kelso, WA, Carl Puckett Junior High School in Kelso, and graduated from Robert A. Long High School in Longview.

As a young boy growing up on a farm, he was a long-time, proud member of the 4-H service club, particularly the local dairy club. He served in the US Army at Headquarters as a clerk-typist at Headquarters 4th Infantry Division at Fort Ord, CA, and at Headquarters, Alaska General Depot at Fort Richardson during the Korean War.

Anderson graduated from St. Martin's College, Olympia, WA, in 1956, and he received a Master's Degree from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles. He taught English at Hollenbeck Junior High School and John F. Kennedy High School, both in Los Angeles, serving as English Department Chairman in both schools. His career as an English teacher spanned over 30 years.

He married Miss Anne Claire Neuman of Los Angeles in 1963, and they enjoyed a 59-year marriage. Survivors include his wife Anne, his sister Millicent (Paul) Fouch, brothers Malcolm and Martin "Mickey" (Arlene) Anderson, sons Steven (Sue) and John (Elaine Carroll) and daughters Claire Anderson and Annie (Phil) Lee, a grandson Matthew Anderson and three granddaughters, Katherine and Kristen Lee, and Cecilia "Ace" Anderson, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, two brothers Mark and Merrill Anderson, and sister-in-law Mary Jo Anderson (Malcolm).

He was a faithful and trusted member of Sts. Felicitas and Perpetua Catholic Church in San Marino, serving as Eucharistic minister and lector for decades. During his retirement, he enjoyed gardening and horticulture, woodworking, and creative writing.

Anderson was most fond of family and in 2005 published a family history book featuring descendants of the Patrick Tully family of Ireland, his mother's maternal relatives. For every two years afterward, he published Tully Updates providing current vital information and events about the family.

Anderson will be remembered for his unfailing devotion to family, strong Catholic faith, adept sense of humor, patience, and humility.

A funeral Mass will be held at Sts. Felicitas and Perpetua Catholic Church in San Marino on Saturday, July 8 at 11:00 a.m., with a Rosary and Viewing immediately preceding at 10:30 a.m. A private burial service will be held at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice or to St. Martin's University at stmartin.edu, Alzheimers Association at www.alz.org or Parkinson's Foundation at Parkinson.org.

The year that was 1935

Although a primitive, two-color process was first used in 1922, audiences weren't impressed by Technicolor until a three-color system appeared in "Becky Sharp."

latimes.com/archives

Matthew William Chambers

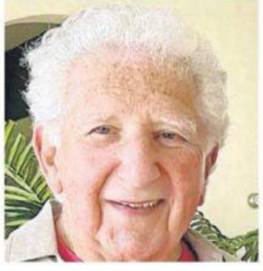
Our beloved son, brother, and friend died in the company of family on June 12, 2023, at the age of 33. A memorial celebration will be held in 2024. For details on how to attend, or to read his full obituary, please visit mattchambers.life. We love you always, kiddo.

Miriam A. Cohen

Mount Sinai Mem Parks

H. Hills 800-600-0076

mountsinaiparks.org



Milton S. Davis, Ph.D, M.D.

86, of Lincoln, MA and Cape Neddick, ME, formerly of Los Angeles, June 11, 2023. Survived by his wife Carol; his son Dr. Geoffrey Davis and his husband, Fabrizio Gentili of Cambridge, MA; his son Gregory Davis and his wife, Rev. Susan Townsley of Kennebunkport, ME, and their two children, Hannah of Cambridge, MA and Andrew of New York, NY. A celebration of Milt's life will be on Sunday, July 16th from 3 to 5 pm at The Commons, 1 Harvest Circle, Lincoln, MA. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Anti-Defamation League, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158. For full obituary and online guestbook, visit www.DeeFuneralHome.com.

Miriam Avivah Dubrow

February 18, 1932 -
June 21, 2023

Miriam Avivah Cohen, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away peacefully earlier this week in Portland, Oregon. The oldest child of James and Sarah Dubrow, Miriam was born in Memphis, Tennessee, lived in Des Moines, Iowa from age three to eleven, and then settled with her family in Los Angeles. After graduating from Fairfax High School, she received a BA in English from UCLA and a Masters of Social Work from Columbia University. Miriam met her future husband William S. Cohen in New York City in 1966, and they were happily married for over 50 years. Miriam is survived by her sister Ruth, brother Eli, two daughters Nancy and Lisa, and five precious grandchildren. She loved to travel, visit family in Israel and England, and spend time with her many close friends. She will be dearly missed by all.

Funeral and burial will take place graveside on Sunday, June 25 at 3pm at Mount Sinai Memorial Park, 5950 Forest Lawn Drive, LA, CA 90068. Honorary donations can be made to Alzheimer's Association, www.act.alz.org.

Cheryl Gordon

Mount Sinai Mem Parks

H. Hills 800-600-0076

mountsinaiparks.org

To place an obituary ad please go online to:
latimes.com/placeobituary
or call
1-800-234-4444
Los Angeles Times

Janet Brooks Birnkrant

June 26, 1944 - June 22, 2023

Janet Birnkrant, 78, passed away at home surrounded by family. She will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, and unconditional love for her family. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, William; beloved daughters Tracy (Kent), Karen (Jack), and Michelle (Steve); adored grandchildren Matthew, Brendan, Hannah, Tyler, Joshua, Ryan, and Jamison; sister, Ellen; niece, Cleo; and faithful companion Rusty. She is predeceased by her loving parents, Evelyn and Harold, and sister, Linda. May her memory be a blessing.

Elaine Akouris

1934 - 2023

Elaine Akouris was born into Chicago's vibrant Greek community, where she forged lifetime friendships and developed the work ethic that marked her long career in banking. She left her family members and many friends on the evening of Thursday, June 15, to reunite with her beloved late husband, John.

Elaine and John were high school sweethearts in Chicago and married in their early twenties. After jobs in a fancy dress shop which established the fashion standards she adhered to throughout her life, and at the Stockyards, which convinced her that she was best suited to a white-collar environment, Elaine settled into the banking profession in Chicago. She started as a part-time teller at Amity Federal Savings and Loan. John and Elaine welcomed their son, Arthur, in 1959.

After John accepted a professional opportunity in Los Angeles in 1976, Elaine and Arthur joined him in 1977. In her first West Coast management position, she turned her Far West Savings and Loan branch from worst performing to best performing of 13 units. Then Elaine found her professional home at what was then the locally owned and operated First Federal Savings and Loan. She was a respected executive team member there, forging lasting friendships with colleagues and customers, setting high standards for her staff, meeting challenging performance targets, and thriving through periods of merger and acquisition.

Elaine was the consummate hostess at home in Malibu and later in Santa Monica. Her seasonal and holiday table decorations were widely admired, and the Greek specialties she turned out to be greatly appreciated. She and John enjoyed trying new restaurants after their long work days. They were movie buffs, an interest Elaine maintained and enjoyed with friends through her final days. She had a vast and far-flung network of friends and acquaintances that kept in touch by e-mail.

Elaine was predeceased by her parents, Caroline and Constantine A. Dimoglis, her brother Alex Dimoglis, and John. She is survived by her son Arthur (Kymberly) and her sister Patricia Dravillas (Paul).

In place of flowers, contributions may be made to Saint John's Foundation (https://www.saintjohnsfoundation.org)

Stories live on. *Tell theirs.*
placeanad.latimes.com/obituaries
Los Angeles Times
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Kathleen Burns Hendrix

December 2, 1940 -
June 22, 2023

Kathleen Burns Hendrix, 82, a journalist at The Los Angeles Times for two decades, died of respiratory arrest on June 22 in Canandaigua, New York, where she had retired. She had an illustrious career, both as a journalist and as a human rights activist.

Kathy grew up in Rochester, graduated from the College of New Rochelle, and earned a Master's Degree in Journalism from Columbia University. She then joined the Peace Corps, serving for two years in Borneo, and after returning to New Year, enlisted on the War on Poverty.

At the Times from 1974 to 1993, her output was prodigious. The excellence of her reporting and writing were matched only by her decency and commitment. She wrote about women in the Middle East, life in a Mexican village, Vietnam veterans, and long pieces about the diverse communities of Los Angeles. She reported on Pro Peace, and followed the long path of its anti-nuclear march across the United States, Europe, and finally to Moscow.

Kathy covered the United Nations Third World Conference on Women in 1985—and was a planner and a participant in the historic Fourth Conference in Beijing in 1995.

By then she was serving in the State Department in the Clinton Administration, and she played a key role in Vital Voices, Hillary Clinton's international effort to empower women and promote their involvement in political life. She was a member of the President Interagency Council on Women at the White House.

For many years, she was a Senior Advisor and an Associate Director to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's Humanitarian Prize, traveling the globe -evaluating candidates for Prize. Kathy was a fierce champion not only for women's rights, but for civil rights and LGBTQ+ rights.

She had a wicked sense of humor and a natural gift for friendship. Fabulous meals were a constant at her table, from Indian specialties to all-American dishes. Her elegant home was always filled with books and piles of papers she perennially planned to sort through.

She is survived by her former husband and lifelong friend, Omar Hendrix, and by many cousins.

Kathy Hendrix touched countless lives and will be deeply missed by so many across America and around the world.

Irene Howard

May 7, 1931 -
June 18, 2023

The world is a less kind, less gentle, and less loving place since Irene passed away. To know Irene was to like her, as evidenced by her wide circle of friends.

Irene loved traveling, eating good food–especially Mexican–wearing bright, colorful clothes, and helping others. Most of all, she loved her family: her husband of 70 years, Sid, her children Paul (Carol), Gary, and Lisa (Max), and her grandchildren, Hannah and Jacob.

Everyone she met felt welcome in her presence. She will be greatly missed.

Joseph Lissak

Mount Sinai Mem Parks

H. Hills 800-600-0076

mountsinaiparks.org

To place an obituary ad please go online to:
latimes.com/placeobituary
or call
1-800-234-4444
Los Angeles Times

John Lovell

December 8, 1944 -
March 30, 2023

Announcing the passing of John Lovell.

Funeral Services

Thursday, June 29, 2023

12 Noon

East Lawn Mortuary

5757 Greenback Lane

Sacramento, CA 95841

Terri Alexander Paiss

October 1932 -
June 2023

A Life Well Lived

Terri was a wonderful mother, grandmother, wife, sister, aunt and friend to many fortunate people. Throughout her long life she always loved and put her heart into family get-togethers whether they be holidays, birthdays, graduations, family birthday lunches or whatever the event was. She always remembered the special days like birthdays and all of the other Hallmark days.

Terri enjoyed traveling, especially cruises, and was always excited to meet new people on these trips. But the trips she enjoyed the most were those she took with her granddaughter Alexis. Alexis is the daughter of her [only child] son and daughter-in-law, and she held a special place in her heart for her.

Not to be forgotten, Terri became a Realtor in her mid-forties, and completely changed her professional life; something to be very proud of. Finally, Terri gave more of herself than seemed possible, and many people felt the benefit. If the positive influence she left on the family and friends around her is any indication, Terri had a full life: A life well-lived.

Muriel Marcus Perry

December 19, 1928 -
June 14, 2023

Muriel Marcus Perry, daughter of Nathan and Lillian Sonnenblick, died peacefully in her Los Angeles home June 14, 2023 at age 94 with her daughters by her side. She was predeceased by her husbands Jerry Lee Marcus and Arnold Bernard Perry, and her brother Jack E. Sonnenblick (Dani).

Muriel grew up in Mt. Vernon, NY and attended Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia, where she majored in Fashion and Textiles. She worked at Town and Country magazine in Manhattan. After marrying and raising children, she moved with her second husband to Los Angeles, where she worked at Saint Laurent Rive Gauche, Beverly Hills. Her clients, friends and family consulted her for fashion advice as Muriel had impeccable taste and style. She especially loved to keep "au courant" with the latest trends.

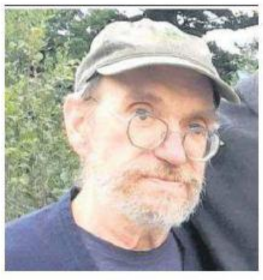
Muriel was a member of Sinai Temple and was active in Sisterhood. She was a member of the Beverly Hills Tennis Club, socializing and playing tennis and mah jong.

She is survived by her identical twin, Jean Saklad, her brother Arthur Sonnenblick (Sybil), and her daughters: Judith Ann Marcus (Rick McKenney), Susan Marcus Halperin (Morgan), and Leslie Marcus; her adoring grandchildren Lindsay Kriger (Stephen), Jesse Marcus, and Chelsea Montgomery (Jacob); and great-grandchildren Nathan and Celia; her step-children David Perry (Laura) and their children; Richard Perry (Lisa) and their children; Jennifer Perry; and many nieces and nephews.

The graveside funeral was held June 16, 2023 at Hillside Memorial Park, Los Angeles, officiated by Rabbi David Wolpe.

Donations in Muriel's memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Share a memory
To sign a guest book
please go to
latimes.com/guestbooks



Norman Siderow

December 6, 1956 -
June 16, 2023

Norman Siderow, 66, of Ojai, California, independent producer and former tv production executive, passed away on June 16, 2023.

Norman grew up in Los Angeles and discovered his love of filmmaking and storytelling at a very young age. With his friends, he created irreverent 8mm films in the style of one of his favorite comics, Mel Brooks. Always a prankster, even as an adult, he enjoyed sending up some of his self-serious friends and colleagues.

After graduating from Cal State Northridge, Norman went on to enjoy a successful career in the film and television industry. He served as the President of Development and Production at Harmony Gold USA, for many years, where he developed and produced long-form television productions. Subsequently, he partnered with Scott Jones at Artist View Entertainment to produce reality-based webisodes at the dawn of that medium, and later joined forces with John Lynch to form Lynch-Siderow Productions, where they produced The Andy Dick Show, Hollow Men and Jackass: The Movie, among other shows.

Most significantly, starting in the 1990s Norman worked with Irish film companies, including a stint with Merlin Films in Dublin, Ireland, where he developed a deep affinity for Irish culture and met many of his closest friends. After returning to Los Angeles he continued to work with Irish screenwriters and producers, resulting in the award-winning drama "Stardust" which swept the Irish Film and Television Awards in 2007, including the award for Best Single Drama/Drama Serial, which award Norman shared with writer Paul Walker and director Ciaran Donnelly.

In 2012 Norman was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, which slowed but did not stop him from continuing to work with Artist View and his colleagues in Ireland, and most recently volunteering as a submission screener for the Ojai Film Festival.

Norman will be remembered for his quick wit and practical jokes, but also for his kindness and generosity. He leaves behind his wife, Jill R. Cohen, his sister, Marcia Siderow, and extended family, as well as his dear friends and colleagues.

Contributions in Norman's memory can be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Memorial services will be held in Dublin in September and in Los Angeles in October.

To place an obituary ad please go online to:
latimes.com/placeobituary
or call
1-800-234-4444
Los Angeles Times

Hiroe Tsukamoto

September 16, 1960 -
June 12, 2023

Hiroe Tsukamoto, of Marina Del Rey, California, passed away on June 12, 2023. She passed away peacefully at her home overlooking the marina. Hiroe was born on September 16, 1960, to parents Michio and Chieko Tsukamoto in Hiroshima, Japan.

At an early age, Hiroe had an affinity for the English language. As a teen, she became proficient enough to serve as a volunteer guide/interpreter for tourists visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum - the site of the atomic bomb explosion during the Second World War. Hiroe received a bachelor's degree in English in her home country and later a master's degree in Consumer Economics at Kansas State University.

Hiroe was also an accomplished guitarist and loved Jimmy Page. She played lead guitar for an all-female rock band called Acid Queen while in college in Japan.

Hiroe moved to the United States in 1990 along with her husband, David Dominguez. She eventually found work in the animation industry where she thrived and played an immeasurable role in helping to bring anime to the world. She first worked with Pioneer Entertainment which later became Geneon, and then with Aniplex of America, a division of Sony Entertainment for a total of over 30 years. She was a well-respected producer of English language versions of anime and her peers in the industry credit her with helping to make the anime industry what it is today. Through her career she was responsible for such notable titles as AKIRA, SAMURAI CHAMPLOO, FATE/STAY NIGHT, DURARARA!!, SWORD ART ONLINE, BLUE EXORCIST, KILL LA KILL, PUELLA MAGI MADOKA MAGIC, and GURREN LAGANN, as well as the highest grossing foreign film in history and popular anime TV series, DRAGON SLAYER.

Hiroe was a remarkably humble, kind and caring person. Her thoughts were always of others, never putting herself in the forefront. She was also a highly pragmatic and creative person with an eye for art and a great ear for audio including music and dialogue. She will be missed by her friends, family and colleagues.

Hiroe is survived by her mother Chieko Tsukamoto, her sister and brother-in-law, Kaori and Hiroshi Yoshizaki, niece and nephew Kotoko and Eishi Yoshizaki and husband David Dominguez, who was by her side to the end. Per Hiroe's wishes, her final rest will be conducted privately. May she forever rest in peace.

Yakov Vakshlyak

Mount Sinai Mem Parks

H. Hills 800-600-0076

mountsinaiparks.org

Devon Gaylord West

October 24, 1924 -
June 14, 2023

Devon Gaylord West, beloved husband, dad, grandparent, and great-grandparent, passed away peacefully surrounded by loving family at age 98 1/2. He loved his wife Virginia for 70 years, and always put family first. A Second World War veteran, he was a deeply patriotic man who had a great sense of humor, loved sports, his friends, USC, his rose garden, and coffee. He was a hard-working man filled with integrity, and will be greatly missed.

Cemetery Lots/Crypts

Beautiful Inglewood Park Cemetery plots available in the highly desirable Parkview lawn. Single $10,000, Double $15,000. Call 310 487-0881.

Honor a life
go to latimes.com/placeobituary
Los Angeles Times

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Cool at the coast; sunny inland: An upper-level trough will take shape offshore and then move in early this week, increasing the extent of low clouds in coastal locations, but there will be some afternoon sunshine. Inland areas will have warm weather. By midweek, high pressure and warmer weather will return, with sunshine. Temperatures will rise to above-average readings.

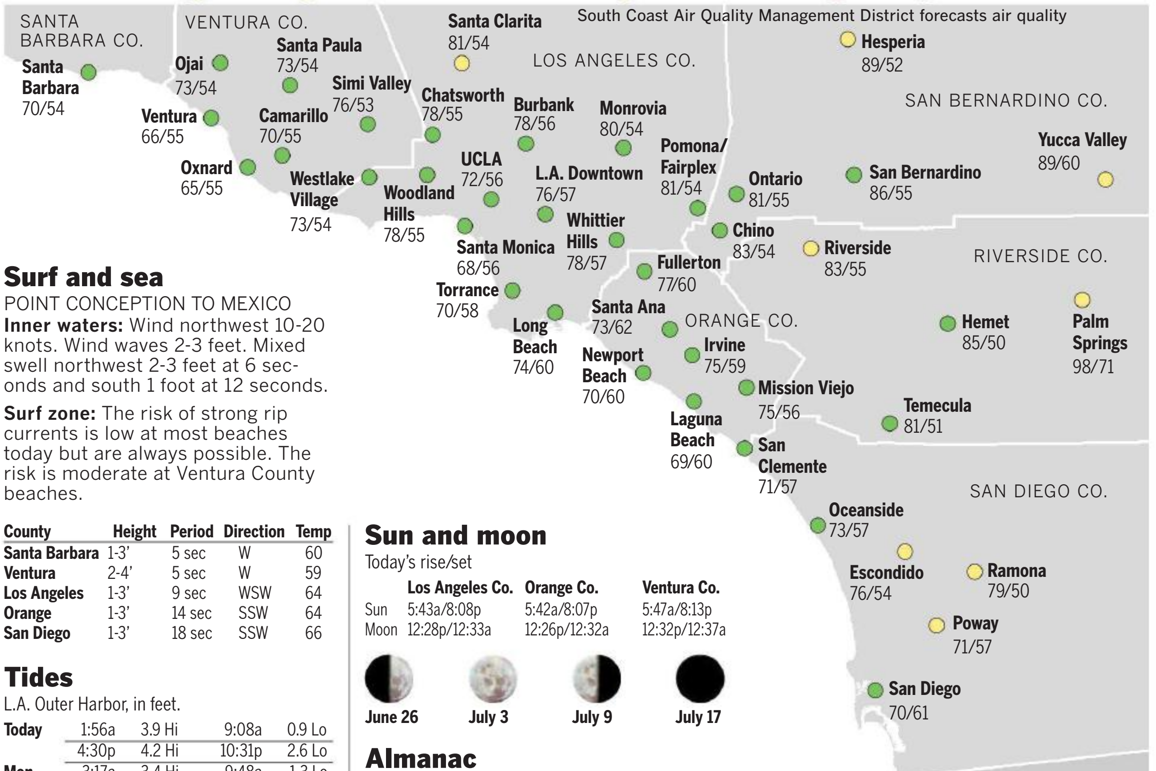
5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	76|57		79|56		68|56		75|47		98|71	
	Turning sunny		Mostly sunny		Clouds, then sun		Lots of sun		Breezy	
Monday	Some sun	76/58	Mostly sunny	80/57	Partly sunny	68/58	Lots of sun	74/43	Breezy	98/69
Tuesday	Partly sunny	75/60	Mostly sunny	82/59	Partly sunny	68/57	Sunny	74/44	Breezy	101/72
Wednesday	Partly sunny	76/60	Mostly sunny	81/59	Partly sunny	69/57	Sunny	74/44	Breezy	99/71
Thursday	Mostly sunny	79/62	Mostly sunny	85/63	Some sun	73/60	Sunny	78/46	Breezy	105/78

Air quality

🟢 Good ○ Moderate Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind northwest 10-20 knots. Wind waves 2-3 feet. Mixed swell northwest 2-3 feet at 6 seconds and south 1 foot at 12 seconds.

Surf zone: The risk of strong rip currents is low at most beaches today but are always possible. The risk is moderate at Ventura County beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	5 sec	W	60
Ventura	2-4'	5 sec	W	59
Los Angeles	1-3'	9 sec	WSW	64
Orange	1-3'	14 sec	SSW	64
San Diego	1-3'	18 sec	SSW	66

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	1:56a	3.9 Hi	9:08a	0.9 Lo
	4:30p	4.2 Hi	10:31p	2.6 Lo
Mon.	3:17a	3.4 Hi	9:48a	1.3 Lo
	5:03p	4.5 Hi	11:48p	2.0 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 10	Phoenix, 10
Los Angeles, 10	San Francisco, 25

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	5:43a/8:08p	5:42a/8:07p	5:47a/8:13p
Moon	12:28p/12:33a	12:26p/12:32a	12:32p/12:37a

June 26 July 3 July 9 July 17

Almanac

Saturday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	78/58	76/57	67/52
Normal high/low	79/63	81/64	72/56
High/low a year ago	82/61	93/63	68/58
Record high/date	102/1976	93/2022	85/1976
Record low/date	50/1882	57/2023	46/1961

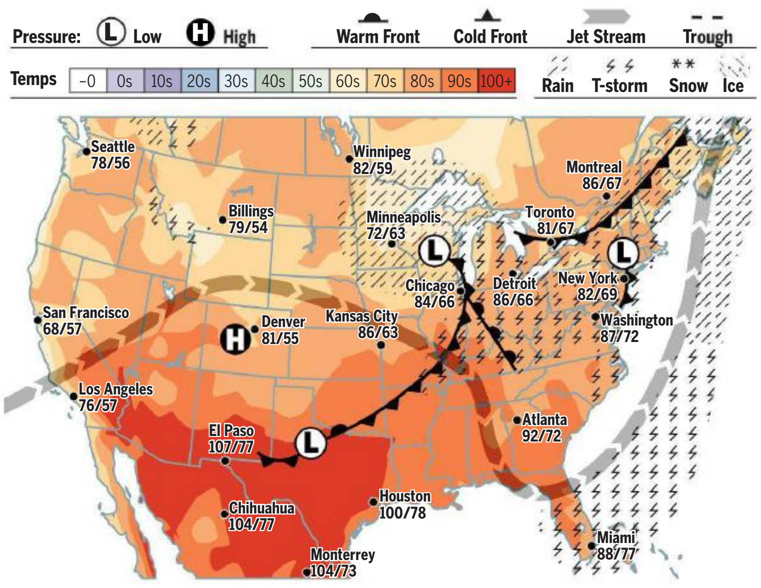
Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	28.03	21.35	26.61
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	12.17	6.56	11.35
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	14.11	11.69	15.91
Humidity (high/low)	90/44	83/47	87/58

California cities

City	Saturday Hi	Saturday Lo	Saturday Prcp.	Today Hi	Today Lo	Monday Hi	Monday Lo
Anaheim	xx	xx	xx	77	58	78	57
Avalon/Catalina	66	51	--	64	53	67	53
Bakersfield	84	60	--	88	63	90	61
Barstow	94	59	--	97	66	95	67
Big Bear Lake	72	36	--	75	47	74	43
Bishop	85	45	--	90	54	82	50
Burbank	78	55	--	78	56	79	57
Camarillo	73	51	--	70	55	71	55
Chatsworth	81	53	--	78	55	79	56
Chino	85	52	--	83	54	85	55
Compton	75	57	--	75	58	76	62
Dana Point	68	52	--	70	59	70	58
Death Valley	106	79	--	106	90	105	88
Del Mar	69	56	--	64	60	65	59
Escondido	81	55	--	76	54	78	51
Eureka	58	54	--	61	52	60	51
Fallbrook	77	54	--	76	54	77	52
Fresno	86	60	--	87	59	88	61
Fullerton	76	57	--	77	60	76	61
Hemet	82	50	--	85	50	85	51
Hesperia	xx	xx	xx	89	52	89	56
Huntington Beach	73	53	--	70	59	71	60
Idyllwild	77	38	--	75	56	76	56
Irvine	74	51	--	75	59	74	58
L.A. D'ntown/USC	78	58	--	76	57	76	58
L.A. Int'l. Airport	72	56	--	70	58	70	59
Laguna Beach	76	51	--	69	60	71	60
Lancaster	86	47	--	85	62	88	64
Long Beach	75	56	--	74	60	74	61
Mammoth Lakes	72	36	--	71	41	69	41
Mission Viejo	77	51	--	75	56	77	57
Monrovia	79	54	--	80	54	80	57
Monterey	63	54	--	70	57	63	57
Mt. Wilson	67	50	--	59	51	58	51
Needles	102	65	--	105	74	106	76
Newport Beach	71	59	--	70	60	71	61
Northridge	xx	xx	xx	79	55	80	56
Oakland	66	56	--	67	57	67	56
Oceanside	72	49	--	73	57	74	55
Ojai	79	46	--	73	54	76	54
Ontario	83	55	--	81	55	84	55
Palm Springs	100	67	--	98	71	98	69
Pasadena	82	56	--	77	55	77	56
Paso Robles	83	46	--	79	49	83	50
Redding	86	59	--	91	64	90	62
Riverside	84	49	--	83	55	84	55
Sacramento	82	55	--	81	54	85	54
San Bernardino	86	52	--	86	55	88	56
San Diego	70	58	--	70	61	70	62
San Francisco	67	57	--	68	57	68	57
San Gabriel	xx	xx	xx	78	56	79	58
San Jose	70	57	--	73	54	73	56
San Luis Obispo	72	51	--	69	54	70	53
Santa Ana	73	59	--	73	62	73	62
Santa Barbara	73	53	--	70	54	71	54
Santa Clarita	80	51	--	81	54	84	55
Santa Monica Pier	71	56	--	68	56	68	58
Santa Paula	80	50	--	73	54	75	56
Santa Rosa	73	53	--	71	52	77	52
Simi Valley	78	51	--	76	53	78	56
Tahoe Valley	70	39	--	65	41	69	40
Temecula	79	52	--	81	51	82	50
Thousand Oaks	75	53	--	72	54	75	56
Torrance	75	55	--	70	58	71	59
UCLA	74	56	--	72	56	74	58
Van Nuys	83	57	--	81	57	82	57
Ventura	67	52	--	66	55	64	56
Whittier Hills	76	51	--	78	57	78	58
Woodland Hills	83	49	--	78	55	80	56
Wrightwood	71	47	--	73	53	73	49
Yorba Linda	80	52	--	78	55	80	56
Yosemite Valley	76	48	--	72	45	72	46

Today in North America

Storms fire up in the mid-Atlantic states: A cold front swinging through the East to start the workweek will bring thunderstorms from southern New Jersey to North Carolina. Any of the storms could bring hail, isolated tornadoes and damaging wind gusts up to 70 mph.



U.S. cities

SATURDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 113 in Wink, Texas **Low** 27 in Dillon, Colo.

City	Saturday Hi	Saturday Lo	Saturday Prcp.	Today Hi	Today Lo	Today Sky
Albany	78	70	.59	84	69	Ts
Albuquerque	96	57	--	96	66	Su
Anchorage	69	56	.01	64	49	Cy
Aspen	73	36	--	78	40	Su
Atlanta	88	67	--	92	72	Ts
Austin	98	76	--	101	76	Su
Baltimore	86	71	--	87	70	Ts
Boise	88	56	--	84	57	Ts
Boston	80	68	.05	80	66	Ts
Buffalo	75	66	.32	79	67	Sh
Burlington, Vt.	79	72	.75	82	68	Sh
Charleston, S.C.	89	72	.05	92	74	Pc
Charlotte	86	68	.05	91	70	Pc
Chicago	93	66	--	84	66	Ts
Cincinnati	87	66	Tr	87	67	Ts
Cleveland	80	66	.06	85	67	Cy
Columbia, S.C.	88	68	--	93	70	Su
Columbus	84	64	.26	84	66	Ts
Dallas/Ft.Worth	99	75	Tr	102	82	Su
Denver	82	50	--	81	55	Su
Detroit	88	65	Tr	86	66	Ts
El Paso	107	76	--	107	77	Su
Eugene	85	47	--	85	53	Su
Fort Myers	94	77	.26	91	77	Ts
Hartford	81	69	.52	85	68	Ts
Honolulu	87	76	Tr	87	76	Pc
Houston	96	79	.15	100	78	Su
Indianapolis	90	64	--	92	67	Ts
Jacksonville, Fla.	89	72	.38	93	71	Pc
Kansas City	91	73	--	86	63	Su
Knoxville	83	67	--	88	69	Pc
Las Vegas	97	69	--	99	75	Su
Louisville	90	69	--	91	70	Ts
Medford	87	54	Tr	83	57	Pc
Memphis	91	71	--	95	75	Pc
Miami	92	80	.11	88	77	Ts
Milwaukee	86	62	--	75	64	Ts
Minneapolis	84	70	.05	72	63	Ts
Nashville	93	63	--	93	71	Ts
New Orleans	94	77	Tr	95	79	Pc
New York	78	68	.17	82	69	Ts
Norfolk	87	71	Tr	87	73	Ts
Oklahoma City	93	68	Tr	93	69	Su
Omaha	93	67	.06	84	62	W
Orlando	92	73	.11	92	74	Ts
Philadelphia	82	69	.03	87	72	Ts
Phoenix	106	73	--	108	81	Su
Pittsburgh	77	64	.15	83	65	Cy
Portland, Ore.	83	54	--	84	58	Su
Providence	73	62	.59	82	67	Ts
Raleigh/Durham	89	69	.05	91	71	Pc
Reno	84	53	--	80	55	Pc
Richmond	87	68	.09	89	71	Ts
St. Louis	97	74	--	94	71	Pc
Salt Lake City	85	58	--	90	69	Su
Seattle	71	52	--	78	56	Su
Tampa	92	78	.01	92	79	Pc
Tucson	105	68	--	109	74	Su
Tulsa	95	69	Tr	95	69	Su
Washington, D.C.	89	72	.11	87	72	Ts
Wichita	95	71	--	90	64	Su

World

City	Saturday Hi	Saturday Lo	Saturday Prcp.	Today Hi	Today Lo	Today Sky
Acapulco	87	75	.62	89	76	R
Amsterdam	77	61	--	86	64	Su
Athens	97	75	--	89	72	Pc
Bangkok	97	84	.10	96	80	Ts
Barcelona	81	72	--	84	72	Su
Berlin	77	59	--	80	61	Pc
Cabo San Lucas	86	76	--	92	75	Su
Cairo	96	75	--	97	72	Su
Dubai	102	86	--	105	88	Su
Dublin	75	64	--	67	50	Ts
Havana	95	75	.26	91	74	Ts
Ho Chi Minh City	93	82	.37	94	78	Ts
Hong Kong	87	81	.29	88	80	R
Istanbul	90	70	--	84	69	Su
Jerusalem	87	63	--	88	62	Su
Johannesburg	67	48	--	68	44	Su
Kuala Lumpur	90	76	.22	91	74	R
Lima	78	67	--	73	65	Pc
London	82	61	--	85	56	Su
Madrid	95	66	--	101	66	Su
Mecca	109	85	--	112	88	Su
Mexico City	81	57	--	79	58	Cy
Montreal	77	70	.33	86	67	Cy
Moscow	66	59	--	75	58	Cy
Mumbai	90	82	1.17	86	80	Ts
New Delhi	97	88	.26	95	78	Ts
Paris	86	63	--	91	62	Su
Prague	77	57	.20	77	56	Pc
Rome	86	70	--	88	64	Su
Seoul	88	68	--	91	73	Pc
Singapore	90	79	.06	88	77	Ts
Taipei City	91	79	.12	95	77	R
Tokyo	82	72	--	84	72	Pc
Vancouver	68	57	.01	71	56	Su
Vienna	76	63	.02	81	58	Pc

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Saturday's readings as of 5 p.m.

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Scammers are coming for you — don't get duped

[**Lopez,** from B1]

Mrs. K., a retired educator living in the downtown L.A. area, was shopping online for a car several weeks ago when she got reeled in. The scam began with a pop-up alert about a computer virus and instructions to call a number to get the problem resolved.

Over the next three days, thinking she was following instructions from bank fraud investigators and federal agents, Mrs. K. withdrew piles of $100 bills from her bank account, put them in her purse, then stuffed tens of thousands into bitcoin machines at a Highland Park doughnut shop and two nearby locations.

"Talk about stupid," said Mrs. K., who is 80 and chalked up her misfortune to a desire to do the right thing. And now she's out $75,000.

Neal and Mrs. K. asked that I not use their full names — they're embarrassed by how easily they were duped and reluctant to share more personal information with anyone.

"I still can't believe I did this," Neal said.

"It's a wonder I didn't get killed," said Mrs. K., who pulled wads of $100 bills from her purse at the three bitcoin deposit machines as strangers watched.

But Neal and Mrs. K. have lots of company, and the scams can be more subtle than what they experienced. Your Social Security number, credit card data or various forms of personal identification get stolen, and suddenly you're seeing charges for goods and services you didn't purchase.

"We're getting 400 to 500 calls daily," said Amy Nofziger, director of victim support at AARP's Fraud Watch Network.

Theft targeting older adults is "big business," Nofziger said, with sophisticated domestic and international schemes. Not that it's any consolation to Neal or Mrs. K., but Nofziger said that in 21 years of fraud investigations, she has encountered "very intelligent and successful" victims, including doctors and lawyers. Crypto crimes like the one Mrs. K. described are common of late, Nofziger added.

The FBI's Internet Crime Center reported in May that 88,000 victims over the age of 60 lost $3.1 billion in 2022, an 84% increase from the previous year. (Losses to victims of all ages topped $10 billion.) And authorities say much of elder abuse doesn't get reported, so the actual total could be far greater.

"Disconnect from the internet and shut down your device if you see a pop-up or locked screen," the FBI advised in a May 10 warning. "Pop-ups are regularly used by perpetrators to spread malicious software. … Be cautious of unsolicited phone calls, mailings and door-to-door service offers."

"It's definitely happening more," said Rafael Carbajal, director of L.A. County's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, who saw an uptick in fraud attempts during the pandemic, when more people were learning to handle banking and other tasks online. "And these are becoming more and more sophisticated. More people live online, with more data and information available to these crooks, who are taking advantage of people."

Another example of the perils of growing old comes to us from Bloomberg, which reports problems with an app called Papa. The app can be used for clients ("papas") to summon workers ("pals") for companionship or to perform chores and run errands. What could go wrong, right?

As Bloomberg reports, pals have been accused of "stealing, harassing, getting naked." But it goes both ways, with pals complaining that papas have "tried to kiss or fondle them, or that their residences were covered in feces or infested with roaches or, in one instance, home to an alligator."

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

LAPD DET. Albert Smith leaves a card with Marta Barillas, who was robbed recently, after a June 15 presentation to educate seniors about scams.

Bloomberg reported that Papa "disputed the suggestion that it's lax on safeguards."

There is no disputing that anyone with a phone or computer has to be on guard at all times. On June 15, as I was pulling up to St. Barnabas Senior Services in MacArthur Park for a seminar on elder abuse and consumer fraud, I got a phone message informing me that my past-due tax debt (I don't have one) had been lifted, and I should call an 866 number immediately for guidance. This trick is somewhat less menacing than the one in which I was warned, multiple times, that I'd be arrested if I didn't call immediately to resolve a tax bill.

At the St. Barnabas seminar, an attendee named Martha Lopez showed me a call — labeled "spam risk" — she'd received just a few minutes earlier and said she frequently gets suspicious messages. The center's receptionist, Linda Brown, said she had just received and deleted a phone message, purportedly from U.S. Bank, telling her that $1,900 had been withdrawn from her account, and she should call immediately for help.

"And I don't even have an account with U.S. Bank," Brown said.

At the seminar, LAPD Senior Lead Officer Carlos Diaz and Det. Albert Smith, along with Evelia Gonzalez, a manager in L.A. County's Aging & Disabilities Department, covered the basics of physical and emotional elder abuse as well as financial scams, all of which can be orchestrated by acquaintances or even family members, in addition to strangers.

As for the latter, "Don't give anyone any information," said Gonzalez, and don't answer phone calls from unfamiliar numbers. She warned the St. Barnabas gathering of lottery scams, in which people are told they need to pay the taxes upfront to claim jackpots or new cars, and of romance scams, in which suitors are after something other than a relationship.

At the seminar, "fraud alert" literature from the L.A. County district attorney's office warned of door-to-door home-improvement scams, charity scams, gift card scams, auto collision scams and prescription drug scams.

And then there's the scurrilously under-handed ripoff in which a grandparent gets a call saying a grandchild has been involved in an accident or some other emergency, and money must be wired immediately. To make such pleas more convincing, the swindlers might dig up information about the "grandchild" on social media or artificially replicate the voice of the grandchild.

> 'These are becoming more and more sophisticated. More people live online, with more data and information available to these crooks.'
>
> — Rafael Carbajal, L.A. County's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs

As Neal and Mrs. K. have discovered, once you've been ripped off, it can be difficult, if not impossible, to get your money back. They each have accounts at Chase and wonder why their bank representatives didn't suspect something was amiss when they made such large withdrawals — especially all cash, in the case of Mrs. K.

A Chase spokesman said the bank can't discuss individual clients. Neal and Mrs. K's losses are "heartbreaking," he said. If a customer is coached on withdrawals and how to explain them, that's a red flag, and Chase says it provides a document warning customers to be aware of wire scams because "once the wire is sent, you may not be able to recover your money."

"We urge all consumers to ignore phone, text or internet requests for money or access to their computer or bank accounts," Chase said. "Legitimate companies won't make these requests, but scammers will."

When Neal realized he'd been had, Chase attempted to recall funds wired to Hong Kong but was unsuccessful. In Mrs. K.'s case, when she withdrew the first $25,000, she told a bank rep she needed the money for home improvement projects. She used a deposit code provided by her scammers and was directed to the nearest bitcoin machines, where her money went into digital "wallets" to which the bank does not have access.

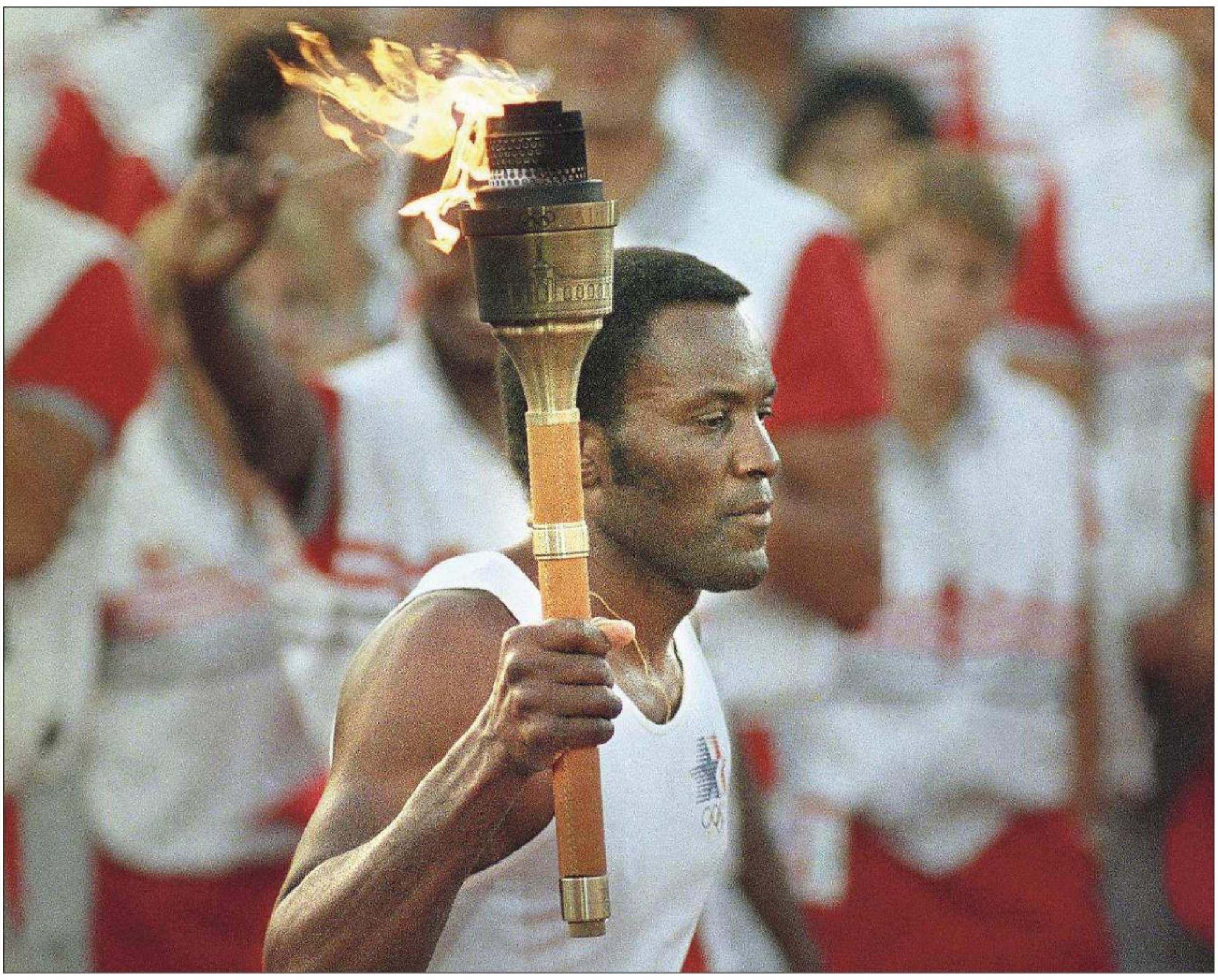
Neal has reported his theft to the FBI. Mrs. K. went to local police, at her bank's suggestion, and a relative reported the crime to federal authorities.

One problem with these ripoffs is determining which agency to notify, but here are some options: Try your local police department; the L.A. County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, at 800-593-8222; the Federal Trade Commission, at 877-382-4357; the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center; and the AARP Fraud Watch Network, at 877-908-3360.

You can also tell it to Golden State by dropping me a line at *steve.lopez@latimes.com*.

Los Angeles Times D
†
SPORTS
SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

COLISEUM TURNS 100



PETER LEABO Associated Press

RAFER JOHNSON ran the final leg of the Olympic torch relay at age 48 on July 28, 1984, to open the Summer Games at the L.A. Coliseum.

THE LIGHT OF THEIR LIVES

From hot seats to hot tubs, 'crazy kid' houses memories

BILL PLASCHKE

All hail the glorious Coliseum, all praise the centennial birthday of the Los Angeles landmark that has hosted a century's worth of world-renowned athletes.

Like, strippers in an end zone hot tub.

The year was 2001, and the fledgling XFL's Los Angeles Xtreme were attempting to entice fans by promising they could watch games from an end zone hot tub located below the famed Coliseum peristyle.

Ever the dutiful reporter, I showed up at the Xtreme's home opener to interview any hearty souls who wanted to watch professional football in 45-degree temperatures while sitting soaking wet in their bathing suits.

Turns out, there were only three.

Cindy, Shanna and Roberta.

Earlier that afternoon, correctly concerned that no real fan would take advantage of their bubbling promotion,

[See **Plaschke,** D4]

Johnson's family reflects on day he rose to occasion again

BILL DWYRE // COMMENTARY

Saturday, July 28, 1984, date of the opening ceremony of the Los Angeles Olympic Games, was a huge day in the history of sports. It transcended athletics.

In the next day's Los Angeles Times, under a large color photo of the L.A. Coliseum that showed hundreds of marchers holding balloons aloft to spell "WELCOME," sports journalism's master of the written word told the world why.

Wrote Jim Murray: "An opening ceremony is not the start of the Olympics. It's the culmination. It makes the Olympic statement. It's a Valentine to tomorrow. Tomorrow will be all right. Tomorrow is in good hands."

What Murray wrote was sentimentally hopeful but also literally true. The torch was lit by Rafer Johnson, who not only had the good hands of a world-class athlete but also a heart with a reach as high as the cauldron in the Coliseum's peristyle end.

The world watched as Johnson climbed the

[See **Johnson,** D4]

COMING MONDAY: The Coliseum has had many looks while hosting Roy Rogers rodeo, ski jumping, NASCAR races and more.

Keep core intact is Lakers' mantra

Pelinka, front office will face heavy lifting in offseason to retain key rotation players.

DAN WOIKE
ON THE LAKERS

At some point early last week, word began to circulate that UCLA senior Jamie Jaquez Jr. would be picked 18th in the first round of the NBA draft by the Miami Heat.

He was a late add to the league's "green room," waiting at Barclays Center in New York for his name to be called with an arena full of people watching, including his parents and siblings, his emotions exposed as lives got changed once every five minutes or so with each pick.

When the Heat eventually made their pick about 10 p.m. local time, Jaquez was still waiting — and still not totally sure.

No matter how many assurances, no matter how many talks with his agents or his parents, he didn't really know whether everything people had been saying was true.

Then the cameras gathered around his table and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver called his name.

"I was s— bricks," he told The Times later that night.

That's kind of how it goes this time of year, players and

[See **Woike,** D7]

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI Associated Press

ANGELS' OFFENSE ROCKS

Matt Thaiss scores one of the Angels' 13 runs in the third, tying a team record. They scored eight more in the fourth in their 25-1 win in Colorado. **D7**

Improbable win is rubber-stamped

Dodgers stage wild comeback and prevail after Astros' Stanek steps off for a balk.

DODGERS 8
HOUSTON 7

By Mike DiGiovanna

Four walks, a knock and a balk. These were the primary ingredients in the witches brew of a cocktail that the Dodgers stirred together for a wacky eighth-inning rally that capped an 8-7 come-from-behind victory over the Houston Astros on Saturday.

A crowd of 49,281 at Chavez Ravine, their voices hoarse from booing Jose Altuve and Alex Bregman, the two holdovers from Houston's 2017 electronic sign-stealing team, cranked up the volume in the final three innings, when the Dodgers overcame a 7-3 deficit to beat the defending World Series champions for their fourth straight win.

"This tells you guys what kind of team we are," said Dodgers outfielder David Peralta, whose pinch-hit, two-run home run pulled the Dodgers to within 7-5 in the seventh. "We're fighting all the way to the end. We never give up."

Peralta's clutch homer to right field off reliever Phil Maton, his team's first hit since the first inning, lit the

[See **Dodgers,** D7]

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Louisiana State tops Florida in opener

Cade Beloso's home run in the top of the 11th puts Tigers a win away from seventh national title. **D2**

HIGH SCHOOLS

They're heroes for all seasons

The Los Angeles Times honors the top high school athletes for their accomplishments in 2022-23. **D3**

SOCCER

LAFC loses, but Galaxy get a point

Carlos Vela scores in a home defeat to Vancouver. On the road, L.A. and Colorado end in a scoreless tie. **D8**

PRO CALENDAR

	SUN 25	MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29
DODGERS	HOUSTON 4 ESPN		at Colorado 5:30 SNLA	at Colorado 5:30 SNLA	at Colorado 5:30 SNLA
ANGELS	at Colorado Noon BSW	CHICAGO WHITE SOX 6:30 BSW	CHICAGO WHITE SOX 6:30 BSW	CHICAGO WHITE SOX 6:30 BSW	CHICAGO WHITE SOX 1 BSW
GALAXY	SATURDAY: AT SAN JOSE, 7:30 P.M., APPLE TV				
LAFC	SATURDAY: AT DALLAS, 5:30 P.M., APPLE TV				
ANGEL CITY	HOUSTON 5 BSSC, Paramount+			SAN DIEGO* 7:30 CBSSN	
SPARKS	DALLAS Noon Ch. 7			at Chicago 9 a.m. NBA TV	

Shade denotes home game. *NWSL Challenge Cup

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUTO RACING		
11 a.m.	IMSA SportsCar, Sahlen's Six Hours of the Glen	**TV:** USA
1 p.m.	NHRA Summit Racing Equipment Nationals	**TV:** 11
4 p.m.	NASCAR, Cup Series, Ally 400	**TV:** 4
BASEBALL		
7 a.m.	St. Louis vs. Chicago Cubs in London	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
10:30 a.m.	New York Mets at Philadelphia	**TV:** MLB
Noon	Angels at Colorado	**TV:** BSW **R:** 830
1:30 p.m.	Washington at San Diego (joined in progress)	**TV:** MLB
4 p.m.	Houston at Dodgers	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND **R:** 570, 1020
BASKETBALL		
10 a.m.	BIG3 League	**TV:** 2
10 a.m.	WNBA, Washington at New York	**TV:** 7, ESPND
Noon	WNBA, Dallas at Sparks	**TV:** 7, ESPND
BOWLING		
10 a.m.	PBA Tour Finals, Group 1 Stepladder Finals	**TV:** CBSSN
1:30 p.m.	PBA Tour Finals, Group 2 Stepladder Finals	**TV:** CBSSN
3:30 p.m.	PBA Tour Finals, championship	**TV:** CBSSN
COLLEGE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES		
Noon	Florida vs. Louisiana State, Game 2	**TV:** ESPN
GOLF		
10 a.m.	Travelers Championship, final round	**TV:** Golf
11 a.m.	Women's PGA Championship, final round	**TV:** 4
Noon	Travelers Championship, final round	**TV:** 2
Noon	PGA Tour Champions, Dick's Sporting Goods Open, final round	**TV:** Golf
HORSE RACING		
10 a.m.	America's Day at the Races	**TV:** FS2
Noon	America's Day at the Races	**TV:** BSSC
MOTORCYCLE RACING		
5 a.m.	Motocross, MX2 Sumbawa, Race 1	**TV:** CBSSN
6 a.m.	Motocross, MXGP Sumbawa, Race 1	**TV:** CBSSN
PRO FOOTBALL		
4 p.m.	USFL, New Orleans at Birmingham	**TV:** 11, FOXD
RUGBY		
3 p.m.	MLR, Old Glory DC at Rugby New York	**TV:** FS2
SOCCER		
12:30 p.m.	CONCACAF Gold Cup, Trinidad and Tobago vs. St. Kitts and Nevis	**TV:** FS1, TUDN, Univision
2:30 p.m.	Campeón de Campeones, Tigres UANL vs. Pachuca	**TV:** KMEX, Univision
3 p.m.	CONCACAF Gold Cup, Haiti vs. Qatar	**TV:** FS1, TUDN
5 p.m.	CONCACAF Gold Cup, Mexico vs. Honduras	**TV:** FS1, KMEX, TUDN, Univision
5 p.m.	NWSL, Houston at Angel City FC	**TV:** BSSC **R:** 1330
SOFTBALL		
10 a.m.	AUX Softball, Team Leach vs. Team Garcia	**TV:** ESPNU
12:30 p.m.	AUX Softball, Team Warren vs. Team Garcia	**TV:** ESPN2
TENNIS		
3 a.m. (Mon.)	ATP/WTA Eastbourne, ATP Mallorca and WTA Bad Homburg tournaments; early rounds	**TV:** Tennis

LETTERS

Up in arms over the Dodgers

I agree with Bill Plaschke that the Dodgers need pitching help in the bullpen and starting rotation. That's only half of the story. The other half is the misuse of the bullpen by manager Dave Roberts. He seems to think relievers are interchangeable. That's wrong. They need to know when and how they will be used. Roberts seems to think anyone can close. It's Alex Vesia, no it's Caleb Ferguson, no it's Evan Phillips. Settle on one and bring stability to the bullpen.

Steven Mintz
Oceano

::

Somebody tell Dave Roberts that baseball games are nine innings, not six.

Kent Bullard
Glendale

::

Every Dodgers game, there's a repeated TV ad where Vin Scully calls Sandy Koufax's perfect game. Were Roberts managing back then, that iconic historical moment likely would have never happened. Is the five-to-six-inning replacement philosophy saving tired arms of starters? How many of them are on the injured list anyway?

Frederick Abrams
Los Angeles

::

The Dodgers go from first place to third place in just a few weeks with no sign of things improving anytime soon and Dave Roberts says he's "not concerned." We want a manager who *is* concerned. Tom Lasorda would be more than just concerned. When will Roberts be concerned? When we're 10 games out of first? 15 out?

R.D. McCall
Fallbrook

::

There may be no curse attached to the visit by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to Dodger Stadium, but last weekend's pummeling of the Dodgers by the Giants got me thinking about the Curse of Billy the Goat and the Cubs' 71-year wait.

Stephen Scheff
Woodland Hills

::

Kudos to the Dodgers' front office for bringing up Emmet Sheehan directly from double A. That took guts and so far is paying off big time.

Jack Wishard
Los Angeles

Allen J. Schaben Los Angeles Times

THE DODGERS have been happier lately, but pitching figures to remain an issue the rest of the season.

Blast from the past

It's entertaining to read how often Bill Plaschke's on the wrong side of a prediction, but in the case of the Astros, he is spot on.

Despite only two players still active from that 2017 group of cheaters and manager Dusty Baker's hope that Dodgers fans "forget the past," I hope every fan in attendance lets the Astros (and MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred) know fans have long memories when justice is denied to them.

Ken Blake
Brea

::

Not that Dodgers fans were ever in doubt, but now that Manfred has finally admitted he was wrong in his handling of the Astros' cheating scandal, MLB should do the right thing and vacate the results of the 2017 World Series. Short of that, I'm pretty sure someone in the league office knows how to type an asterisk.

Brian Lipson
Beverly Hills

::

Bill Plaschke's obsessive hatred of the Astros does little more than reveal how small-minded he is.

The Dodgers lost Game 7 in their own ballpark sans Astros trash cans. But that was only one of many crucial postseason failures of his cherished Dodgers over many years. Whining excuse after excuse and blame it on the Astros.

Kip Dellinger
Santa Monica

Sign him up

The best baseball player in the world today will be considering stratospheric contract offers from teams this coming winter. The Angels can simply put a definite stop to this upcoming bidding circus by signing Shohei Ohtani to a new contract deserving of his performance and skills at the end of this season. Owner Arte Moreno has a history of signing players to undeserving exorbitant contracts, such as Albert Pujols recently. The Angels will not be making this same mistake with Ohtani for sure. Just give the modern-day Babe Ruth what he deserves and keep him playing for the Angels.

Wayne Muramatsu
Cerritos

::

In pinning a loss on the Angels' Shohei Ohtani to sweep the Freeway Series, the Dodgers also sent a message: If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

Steve Ross
Carmel

Feeling the draft

I'm not a Lakers scout, but what on earth could have prompted them to use their first-round pick on some 20-year-old freshman out of Indiana with just one year of college ball behind him, instead of UCLA's Jaime Jaquez Jr., a proven commodity with an amazing work ethic who propelled his Bruins and himself to national prominence over the past four years?

The fact that the Miami Heat, drafting next, didn't hesitate to take Jaquez speaks for itself. Seems to me that Pat Riley and his Miami cohorts can't be thanking the Lakers enough, while Jaquez will have to vanquish his dreams of a relatively easy commute from his Camarillo home to Crypto.com Arena.

Marty Zweben
Palos Verdes Estates

Appreciate the experience

What a breath of fresh air to read the article on LACC golf director Tom Gardner. In an age where everything, including sports, has morphed into Big Business, Sam Farmer's piece was truly a joy. I use the word "joy" with intention because it imbues the entire article.

From start to finish, Gardner's appreciation of the entire tournament experience was beautifully chronicled. True, nothing he did mattered in the outcome — he was a "non-competitive marker," essentially a placeholder. True, the tournament winner collected $3.6 million, but Gardner collected a priceless lifetime memory.

Ralph Martinez
Arcadia

::

After reading the article titled "After no Black golfers qualify for the U.S. Open, USGA president pushes to improve access," I wonder why the USGA only made available 9,000-plus U.S. Open daily public tickets that limited access and caused escalating pricing. Its exclusive U.S. Open strategy strangely is the exact opposite to opening the sport of golf to more diverse populations and social classes. Shame on the USGA.

Joe Marando
Burbank

Why was he suspended?

I am shocked to read that Memphis guard Ja Morant has been suspended for the first 25 games for flashing a gun in a social media video. Unless Morant flashes a gun while making a dunk shot on the court during an official NBA game, keep his name out of your mouth. What he does off the court is none of the NBA's business. I hope the players on his team show some support and refuse to play in any games that Mr. Morant is not allowed to play in.

Michael Gabriel
Los Angeles

::

Adam Silver probably wanted to give Ja Morant a year suspension but couldn't because Morant is a star and the NBA is built around stars. The commissioner knows what side his bread is buttered on.

Jack Spiegelman
Los Angeles

::

The Los Angeles Times welcomes expressions of all views. Letters should be brief and become the property of The Times. They may be edited and republished in any format. Each must include a valid mailing address and telephone number. Pseudonyms will not be used.

Email: sports@latimes.com

THE DAY IN SPORTS

LSU one win from seventh College World Series title

WIRE REPORTS

Cade Beloso hit a tiebreaking homer in the top of the 11th inning after **Ty Floyd** struck out a career-high 17 for the most in a College World Series game in 51 years, and Louisiana State beat Florida 4-3 in Game 1 of the best-of-three finals Saturday night in Omaha, Neb.

Beloso's blast came after left fielder **Josh Pearson** made a leaping catch to keep Florida from scoring the winning run in the 10th and moved the Tigers (53-16) to within a win of their seventh national championship and first since 2009.

"The previous at-bat, he struck me out on three straight heaters, and I figured he would go back to it," Beloso said. "They weren't going to switch anything up. I got one I was supposed to swing at and put a good swing on it."

Reed Hoffmann Associated Press

MISDEMEANOR ASSAULT CHARGES against Las Vegas Raiders wide receiver Davante Adams (17) were dropped by prosecutors in Kansas City, Mo.

An Alabama judge granted a former Alabama basketball player accused of capital murder a hearing to decide whether charges in the case will be dismissed. Attorneys for **Darius Miles** on Wednesday filed a motion for immunity, asking Tuscaloosa County Circuit Judge **Daniel Pruet** to dismiss capital murder charges on the grounds of self-defense, news outlets reported. Miles is accused in the Jan. 15 shooting death of 23-year-old **Jamea Jonae Harris**, of Birmingham. ... Assistant **Josh Eilert**, 43, was selected as the interim coach at West Virginia, punctuating a hectic week after **Bob Huggins** resigned following a drunken driving arrest.

ETC.

Allmendinger wins Xfinity race

A.J. Allmendinger pulled away on the second overtime restart to win his second NASCAR Xfinity race this year and 17th of his career at the Nashville Superspeedway in the Tennessee Lottery 250.

"I spent a lot of years not winning anything, so I need wins just to make me mentally OK every week," Allmendinger said. "And whether it's Cup or Xfinity, this is why you go out here, do this is, to try to win races. ... So I don't take anything for granted."

Allmendinger, 41, pitted on Lap 145 and used fresher tires to pass **Parker Kligerman**, taking the lead for good on Lap 177. Allmendinger seemed poised to cruise to his latest victory for Kaulig Racing in his No. 10 Bailey Zimmerman-Religiously Chevrolet until **Chad Chastain** spun off Turn 4 with five laps left.

Trackhouse Racing and **Ross Chastain** notched a pair of firsts as the driver earned the first Cup Series pole of his career and the first for his team for the Ally 400 on Sunday in Nashville. ... In NHRA qualifying, **Leah Pruett** (top fuel), **Bob Tasca III** (funny car), and **Matt Hartford** (pro stock) are the top drivers going into the finals of the NHRA Nationals in Norwalk, Ohio.

Prosecutors dropped a misdemeanor assault charge filed in October against Las Vegas Raiders wide receiver **Davante Adams** after he shoved a photographer to the ground as he left the field following a loss at Kansas City. The case filed in Kansas City, Mo., municipal court was dismissed June 5, the Kansas City Star reported.

Ashlyn Krueger, 19, won the showdown of American teenagers at the Veneto Open in Gaiba, Italy, to set up a final against top-seeded **Tatjana Maria** of Germany. Krueger rallied to beat 18-year-old **Robin Montgomery** 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2 after 2 hours 20 minutes. ... **Carlos Alcaraz** moved one win away from reclaiming the top ranking by taking out **Sebastian Korda** 6-3, 6-4 at the Queen's Club Championships in London. Alcaraz next will face **Alex De Minaur**, who knocked out **Holger Rune** 6-3, 7-6 (2). ... Donna Vekic will play two-time Wimbledon champion **Petra Kvitova** in the final of the Berlin Open after both won twice. The unseeded Vekic upset **Maria Sakkari** 6-4, 7-6 (8) in their semifinal, shortly after beating **Elina Avanesyan** 6-2, 7-6 (0) in their rain-delayed quarterfinal. Kvitova defeated **Caroline Garcia** 6-4, 7-6 (3), then ended **Ekaterina Alexandrova's** seven-match winning streak with a comfortable 6-3, 6-4 victory. ... **Alexander Bublik** will play **Andrey Rublev** in the final of the Halle (Germany) Open after straight-sets semifinal wins. Bublik defeated Germany's **Alexander Zverev** 6-3, 7-5, and Rublev beat Spain's **Roberto Bautista Agut** 6-3, 6-4 on grass.

The Colorado Avalanche filled their second-line center void by acquiring **Ryan Johansen** from the Nashville Predators. Colorado sent pending free agent **Alex Galchenyuk** to Nashville in a trade that essentially amounts to a contract dump. ... The Kings traded defenseman **Sean Durzi** to the Arizona Coyotes for Montreal's second-round pick in the NHL draft. Durzi, 24, finished the season with 38 points, including nine goals, in 72 games.

Connecticut Sun forward **Brionna Jones** had surgery and will miss the rest of the WNBA season with a ruptured right Achilles tendon, the team announced.

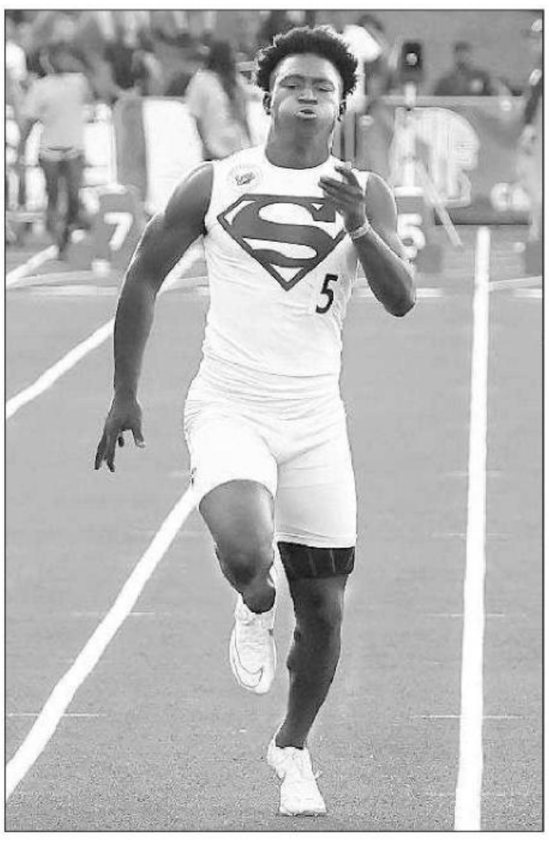
Dahrran Diedrick, a Canadian running back who starred at Nebraska and won three Grey Cup titles in his CFL career, died after fighting cancer. He was 44.

They’re the heroes for all seasons

BY LUCA EVANS AND ERIC SONDHEIMER >>> Since the start of the 2022-23 season, the Los Angeles Times has been working to honor the best of the best through our new high school sports awards. ¶ Winners were measured by statistics, achievements, team success and character. Honorable mention spots were reserved for those who competed in different sports than the winners. ¶ Presenting the first “Preps: Best of The Times” showcase, honoring our elite 11 award winners.

JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

JUJU WATKINS, who guided Sierra Canyon to a Southern Section title, signed to play at USC.



NICK KOZA For The Times

IT WAS ALL A BLUR, but Gardena Serra’s Rodrick Pleasant dominated in the 100 meters.

GREGORY PAYAN Associated Press

JARED McCAIN led Centennial to a third straight Southern Section Open Division title.

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

ANAHI ARREOLA of Oaks Christian finished the softball season with 20 home runs.

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

CARSON FOX, who lost a leg to cancer, fought to compete in football and track at Los Alamitos.

BOYS’ ATHLETE OF THE FALL

Dijon Stanley

GRANADA HILLS, FOOTBALL

In coach Bucky Brooks’ double-wing offense, Stanley put his blazing speed to use, running for more than 2,700 yards and 33 touchdowns. He continued to help put City Section football back on the map, earning a scholarship to Utah, and was a constant advocate for athletes in the City to stay home and develop at their neighborhood programs. He capped his senior year with 367 yards and five touchdowns while leading Granada Hills to a City Division I football title.

FINALISTS

Lex Young	Ben Liechty
Newbury Park, cross-country	Newport Harbor, water polo

GIRLS’ ATHLETE OF THE FALL

Sadie Engelhardt

VENTURA, CROSS-COUNTRY

After a dominant freshman season, Engelhardt fought through an illness that limited her for nearly two months in the fall cross-country season to win the Division 2 individual state championship in a time of 16 minutes 58 seconds. Engelhardt also smashed the three-mile course record at the prestigious Woodbridge Classic in September.

FINALISTS

Kenzie Nguyen	Charlie Fuerbringer
Portola, tennis	Mira Costa, volleyball

BOYS’ ATHLETE OF THE WINTER

Jared McCain

CORONA CENTENNIAL, BASKETBALL

McCain is a blue-chip all-around prospect who signed with Duke. He averaged 18 points, seven rebounds and four assists a game in his senior year at Centennial, leading the battle-tested Huskies core to their third straight Southern Section Open Division title.

FINALISTS

Oscar Vargas	Ronnie Ramirez
Birmingham, soccer	Walnut, wrestling

GIRLS’ ATHLETE OF THE WINTER

Juju Watkins

SIERRA CANYON, BASKETBALL

Watkins entered her senior year on the heels of a state championship run with Sierra Canyon High and a commitment to USC. She got better in every facet of the game: ballhandling, shooting and leadership. Watkins averaged 27.3 points and 13.8 rebounds a game, including one 60-point game against Sherman Oaks Notre Dame, and led the Trailblazers to a Southern Section championship.

FINALISTS

Lauren Steele	Briley Phelps
Orange Lutheran, water polo	Hart, soccer

BOYS’ ATHLETE OF THE SPRING

Rodrick Pleasant

GARDENA SERRA, TRACK AND FIELD

One of the area’s best two-sport stars throughout his time at Serra in football and track, Pleasant came in this spring with quite a bit of pressure after running a state-record 10.14 seconds in the 100-meter dash as a junior. From his first meet of the year at the Trabuco Hills Invitational, fans and fellow athletes flocked to see him go. In his final season before heading to Oregon, he ran a wind-aided 10.09 at the Southern Section Divisional finals, a legal 10.14 at Masters and a 10.20 to break the state meet record in his final high school race. He capped it with a 20.67-second 200-meter performance, walking away from high school track with two state gold medals.

FINALISTS

Rex Maurer	Justin Lee
Loyola, swimming	Sherman Oaks Notre Dame, baseball

GIRLS’ ATHLETE OF THE SPRING

Anahi Arreola

OAKS CHRISTIAN, SOFTBALL

Arreola kicked off the year by hitting a ball over the fence in each of her first seven games — including a three-for-three, two-homer performance against Trabuco Hills — and ended the year with 20 home runs, second all time in a season in Southern Section softball history. She was the beating, goofy heart of an Oaks Christian team that united after the winter death of legendary coach Pete Ackermann. “I’m glad I was able to find happiness in a room of sorrow,” Arreola said after leading her team to the Division 1 semifinals.

FINALISTS

Ava DeAnda	Aujane Luckey
Riverside Poly, swimming	Long Beach Wilson, track and field

BOYS’ TEAM OF THE YEAR

St. John Bosco football

For years, Mater Dei had the upper hand on rival St. John Bosco, unbeaten for 29 straight games before Bosco knocked off the Monarchs at the Rose Bowl in the Open Division final in November. After the Braves opened a surprising lead, Mater Dei climbed back, only to be smothered time and again at the goal line by Bosco’s defensive front. No team in the nation, from top to bottom, had a more loaded collection of talent, with Bosco deep with future college players at every position. The Braves fielded one of the best defensive units the state has seen and rode it to a 45-0 shutout of San Mateo Serra in the state final, clinching a national championship.

FINALISTS

JSerra	Newbury Park
Soccer	Cross-country

GIRLS’ TEAM OF THE YEAR

Santa Margarita girls’ soccer

Five seniors and five more underclassmen are committed to Division I programs, and the group thrived on sheer adaptability, able to pivot at a split second to any style of soccer. When they faced Los Alamitos for the Southern Section Division 1 championship, the Eagles relied on clutch saves from freshman goalie Peyton Trayer to win. When Santa Margarita faced Los Al again in the regional final a week later, the team was prepared for the Griffins’ quick-hitting style and shut down it down.

FINALISTS

Sierra Canyon	Foothill
Volleyball	Lacrosse

COACH OF THE YEAR

Stan Delus

ETIWANDA, GIRLS’ BASKETBALL

With two minutes left in the Open Division girls’ basketball state championship, down by five, Delus sat his players down during a timeout and told them to change their mindset and step up. “I said, just play that moment,” Delus said. “Just continue to improve. Because we’re in a fight for our lives right now.” They had been in a fight for their lives for three consecutive ridiculously tough games in the state Open Division bracket: a grind-it-out win over San Diego’s La Jolla Country Day, a one-point victory over previously undefeated Sierra Canyon and Juju Watkins, and now facing Northern California power Archbishop Mitty. But Etiwanda fought tooth and nail all season behind Delus, who uses a relentless defensive scheme no matter the opponent and emphasized the offensive talents of point guard Aliyahna Morris and do-it-all big Kennedy Smith. And after Etiwanda fought back against Mitty to tie the score with seconds remaining and a winning jumper by Smith swirled out, Jada Sanders put the final touch on an incredible season.

FINALISTS

Sina Aghassy	Crystal Irving
Chatsworth, boys’ volleyball	Long Beach Poly, track and field

SONDHEIMER SPIRIT AWARD

This award honors the most inspiring Times-area athletes who faced and overcame incredible adversity to help themselves and their team to athletic achievement.

Carson Fox

LOS ALAMITOS, FOOTBALL AND TRACK AND FIELD

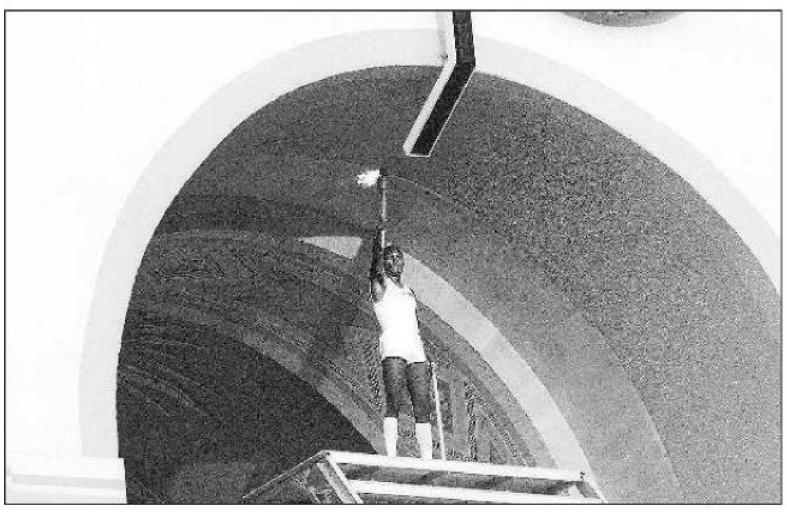
Carson Fox always smiled, even when there wasn’t much to smile about. A tumor in his leg nearly killed him, and a terrifying amputation changed his life. Everything flipped in 2021, when Carson was a freshman at Los Alamitos. He was a football and baseball player known for that smile, for the golden blond hair, for the skateboarding and wakeboarding and snowboarding and happy-go-lucky in action. Maybe that’s why, when the unthinkable happened and he was diagnosed with cancer, an entire Los Alamitos community rallied around him and his family. On the day the amputation became necessary, friends and family gathered on the street below his hospital room window, holding up signs to surprise him. And he got through the amputation and the cancer, ringing the bell for the end of his treatment in November 2021. That spring, growing comfortable with a prosthetic leg, he decided to try track and field and found a new passion. His faith never wavered, and Fox earned a spot on the Open Division-level Los Alamitos football team as a short snapper. He later won a state title in the boys’ Para-Athlete shot put during spring track. Slowly, he’s accepting his story is an inspiration. “Yeah, it’s definitely getting better,” Fox said. “It’s that feeling of knowing eyes are always on you, everyone’s questioning, wondering what happened. … Getting used to kind of embracing it, instead of rejecting it.”

FINALISTS

Landon Sachs	Nathan Santa Cruz
JSerra, tennis	Venice, football, track and field

Johnson's cauldron-lighting m

Jayne Kamin-Oncea Getty Images



Associated Press

GAMES
XXIII
OLYMPIAD

Mel Melcon Los Angeles Times

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Rafer Johnson is cheered as he runs with the torch in 1984; hundreds of marchers hold balloons that spell "welcome"; Johnson poses with the same torch in 2009; Johnson extends his arm to light the cauldron at the Summer Games.

Homecomings, history and more

[**Plaschke,** from D1]

an Xtreme employee had phoned the Spearmint Rhino gentleman's club with a request.

"Get us three strippers down here, and fast."

So that's how the end zone became populated with pole dancers, the toughest athletes in the house, three women who spent four quarters basking in bikinis in what was surely one of the Coliseum's strangest moments.

"I think it's a little bit hokey, to tell you the truth," Shanna said.

Meanwhile, all around them were fans tossing bottles and throwing punches and baring breasts and generally turning the football game into a street fight while eliciting this infamous official statement from then-Coliseum general manager Pat Lynch.

"It was no more rowdy than a USC game," he said.

All hail the quirky Coliseum, a regal palace that wonderfully has mirrored the unpredictable passions and lovable eccentricities of the city that sprawls around it.

For every regal Rafer Johnson Olympics moment, there has been a celebrity causing chaos on Pete Carroll's USC sideline. For each of the 90,000 lights that solemnly honored Roy Campanella, the monument has housed an equal number of moments filled with jubilant triumph, aching failure and just plain craziness.

Since joining The Times 36 years ago, I have been lucky to personally witness some of those human moments. The End Zone Hot Tub was one of them. Here's the rest of my top 10.

Sight to behold

In the final minutes of its season-opening win against Western Michigan in 2017, USC scored a touchdown followed by a miracle.

The long snapper on the extra-point attempt was Jake Olson, a blind athlete who had been adopted by the Trojans program eight years earlier. He had spent the last three years as a walk-on, and, except for the times he would put his hand on a teammate's shoulder while navigating the practice field, he was treated as any other player, working as hard as everyone else, waiting for a moment he thought might never come.

But before this game, Trojans coach Clay Helton had worked out a deal with Western Michigan coach Tim Lester. The Trojans would not rush the Broncos' first extra-point attempt if the Broncos agreed to not rush an extra-point attempt snapped by Olson.

This was pure Helton. And then it became pure Olson.

The snap was perfect. The kick by Chase McGrath was good. The postgame quote was priceless.

"There's a beauty in it," Olson said. "If you can't see how God works things out, then I think you're the blind one."

Welcome home

The end of the first Rams game in Southern California in 22 years was deafeningly perfect.

The Seattle Seahawks took a false-start penalty because they couldn't hear the snap count, then Christine Michael lost a fumble to finish it.

The final score of that Sept. 18, 2016, game: Rams 9, Seahawks 3. The Coliseum shook with the noise from 91,000 fans who wouldn't leave, and a former tough guy got all choked up.

"It was a rush," Hall of Famer Jack Youngblood said, stifling tears. "Just a rush."

See ya later

Three months after their grand return, the Rams transformed their season-long homecoming parade into a march from hell with a 42-14 loss to the Atlanta Falcons.

It was their eighth defeat in nine games. It was the Sunday that turned the Coliseum ugly.

There were thousands of empty seats, there were prolonged boos ... the entire scene became a national joke.

Then running back Todd Gurley said this:

"It looked like a middle-school offense out there."

That did it. A day later, coach Jeff Fisher was fired, setting the stage for the hiring of you-know-who.

A terrible Coliseum day. A great Coliseum day.

Coach O-ohhhh

For one of the few times in its history, the Coliseum field was overrun by USC fans.

For maybe the only time in history, those fans were pleading for the school not to fire a coach but to keep one.

That was the power of interim coach Ed Orgeron on that November Saturday in 2013 when the Trojans beat Stanford on a last-second field goal by Andre Heidari that sent fans flying out of their seats.

In a scene of unbridled fervor perhaps unmatched in the Coliseum's history, Orgeron was surrounded by hundreds in a giant scrum that moved slowly down the field. At one point, the coach was visible by only his two triumphantly raised arms.

Trojans nation was sending a clear message to athletic director Pat Haden to make Orgeron the full-time replacement for the earlier fired Lane Kiffin.

"Coach O needs to be here next year ... we want Coach O next year," USC freshman star Su'a Cravens said. "Forget the hiring, forget all that. We got Coach O, and that's all we need."

Everybody seemingly agreed except, well, Haden. Within a couple of weeks, Orgeron's team had lost to UCLA and Haden hired Steve Sarkisian.

The fans haven't rushed the field since.

Lot 6

On a December Sunday afternoon in 1993, I ventured among 465 tight and cluttered parking spots in a lot outside the Coliseum.

Once there, I was overwhelmed with the smell of sizzling carne asada, the thump of rap music and the affiliation of this football nation.

It was the usual Raiders tailgate party, and it was filled with gang members.

One gentleman bragged about being in a local crew. He was tossing a football with a gentleman who bragged about being in an opposing crew. A third gentleman was urging the other two guys to feel the bullet lodged in his chest while waxing poetic about being in yet another crew.

I wondered, why weren't these guys trying to kill one another?

They all smiled with a look that gave me my first glimpse of the enduring power of the silver and black.

"One gang in here," one partier said. "The Raiders gang."

The price of greatness

History will record how USC's Carson Palmer clinched the Heisman Trophy in the Coliseum on the last day of November in 2002 when he threw for 425 yards and four touchdowns in a rout of Notre Dame.

That history will include 91,000 fans standing and shaking two fingers in unison in what became the unofficial beginning of the Carroll era.

History will not, however, tell the real story of the moment that truly symbolized the return of Trojans glory.

It occurred four hours before kickoff when I arrived at the Coliseum without my parking pass, forcing me to navigate the downtown streets that were growing increasingly crowded with each game. I finally found a muddy, cluttered spot, and it was there that I knew this program was on the verge of something special.

It was the first and only time in my life I paid $100 to park in someone's backyard.

Pete's last stand

Although there were many great Carroll Coliseum moments — among others, the escape against Aaron Rodgers and Cal and the Reggie Bush game against Oregon State — few were as delicious as the end of the Trojans' 28-7 victory over UCLA in Carroll's last season.

It was the final time fans — and the Bruins — witnessed the full wrath of Carroll's swagger.

With USC protecting a two-touchdown lead in the final minute, UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel inexplicably called a timeout. Carroll clearly was not pleased, and, on the next play, Trojans quarterback Matt Barkley threw a 48-yard touchdown pass to Damien Williams. Leaving the field moments later, both sides were so incensed they nearly brawled.

"It's just the heart of a competitor, just battling," Carroll said afterward with a straight face.

It was the last time USC fans saw him battling.

Six weeks later, Carroll was coaching the Seahawks.

L.A. together

The shiny pregame flags and white fan towels all contained the same phrase.

On a Monday night in November 2018, the Rams filled the Coliseum with an inspirational message in the wake of local deadly wildfires and a mass shooting in Thousand Oaks.

"L.A. Together," they preached.

"L.A. Wow," their football team responded.

In the highest-scoring Monday night game in NFL history, the Rams and Jared Goff outlasted the Chiefs and Patrick Mahomes, 54-51, in a game that even amazed Rams coach Sean McVay.

"Until those final seconds ticked off, you weren't able to breathe," McVay said.

Goff threw for 413 yards and four touchdowns and ran for an additional score. Mahomes threw for 478 yards and six touchdowns but had five turnovers.

The biggest winner, however, was the connection forged between the Rams and the community.

The game essentially served as a Southland pep rally, with national anthem singers and torch lighters and time-out videos all reflecting inspiration and support for the fire and shooting victims.

"We wanted to take advantage of the platform to strengthen the community," said Kevin Demoff, the Rams' chief operating officer.

That night built a bond that exists even stronger today. The Rams were finally, undeniably, home.

'The Red Sea departed'

Two months after winning the thriller against the Chiefs, the Rams scored their biggest Coliseum victory — a 30-22 win over the Dallas Cowboys in an NFC divisional playoff game that helped them reach the Super Bowl.

But the best part of that win in January 2019 was what occurred afterward in the locker room.

When asked to describe the hole created by the Rams' massive offensive line during his 35-yard, game-clinching touchdown run, Gurley didn't mince words.

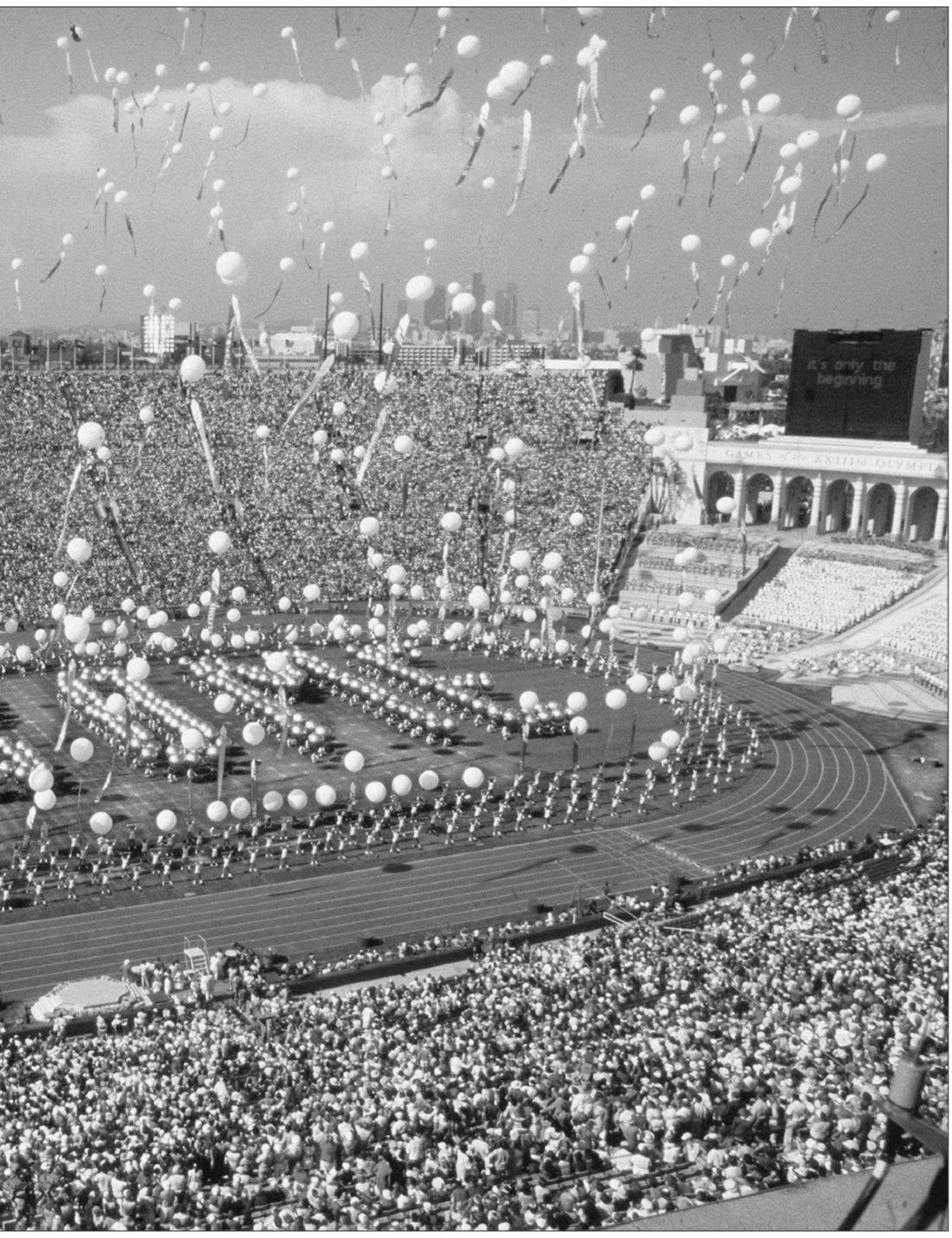
"It was like the Red Sea departed," he said.

The Red Sea ... departed? That would seem to make no sense. Yet think about it, and it makes total sense.

Jumbled and fractured and perfect, just like the Coliseum itself.

Happy 100th birthday, you crazy kid.

moment continues to resonate



KEN HIVELY Los Angeles Times

KELVIN KUO Associated Press

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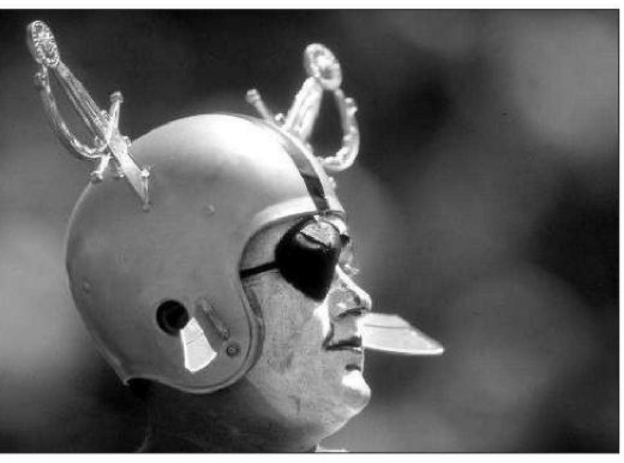
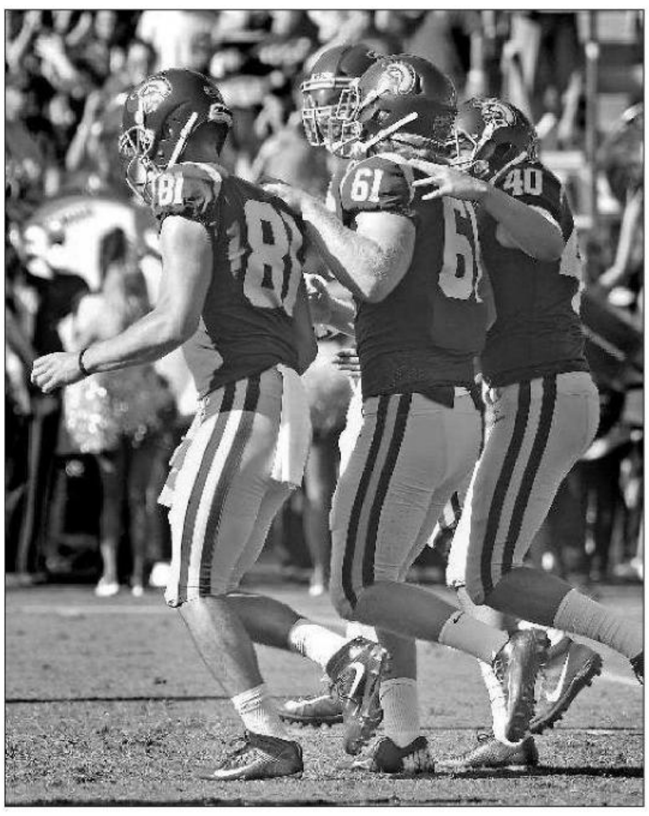


STEPHEN DUNN Getty Images



JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA Getty Images

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The Rams beat the Seahawks in their first game in Southern California in 22 years; Jake Olson (61), a blind long snapper, provided plenty of inspiration for USC; there's nothing quite like fans in Raiders Nation; Jeff Fisher's departure as Rams coach in 2016 opened the door for future success.

[**Johnson,** from D1]

99 steps, torch in his right hand, left hand reaching down occasionally to balance himself on the narrow steps of the finishing ladder. When he turned to face the enormous crowd, he steadied himself with one hand on a vertical rail that had been installed the day before, at his request.

"I knew that, if I didn't have something to grab on to, I might fall," Johnson said.

In practice sessions, he never made it to the top. He was 48 years old, more than two decades since he won the Olympic gold medal in the decathlon at the 1960 Rome Games. He was in good shape but not decathlon shape.

"When I got to the top and turned and saw that view, the huge crowd, it was breathtaking, a wow," he said. "If I didn't have that little rail to grab, I would have fallen."

As he always had, in every walk of his life, Rafer Johnson rose to the occasion. He lifted the torch into the chute above his head that would send the flames upward, then spiraling through the five Olympic rings before shooting up into the cauldron. Once there, it would burn symbolically for the rest of the L.A. Olympic Games.

The Coliseum, venerable as well as creaky after 61 years, had hosted dozens of great moments. This would be its second Olympics, the 1932 Games its first. Its walls had encircled everyone from Bruce Springsteen to Pope John Paul II. Nelson Mandela had spoken there. So had the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Billy Graham, John Fitzgerald and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The first Super Bowl was there. So was Los Angeles' first look at its beloved Dodgers.

But this moment probably topped them all.

From a box seat area high above the Coliseum floor, President Ronald Reagan officially opened the Games. He was protected by bulletproof glass.

Under the press box, halfway up and around the 40-yard line toward the peristyle end, sat Rafer Johnson's family. No bulletproof glass. Not even a full recognition quite yet of what was to come. Wife Betsy knew this would be a treasured moment. Daughter Jenny, 11, and son Josh, 9, were just catching on.

To this day, there remains some family disagreement about when the kids were told their dad would light the torch.

Jenny recalls, "He told us just before we got in the car to go to the stadium."

Josh recalls differently. "I think it was in the car, right when we were going over the big hill on the 405 and heading downtown."

Both Jenny and Josh are June babies. Jenny, a former Olympian in beach volleyball and now coach of UCLA's beach volleyball team, turns 50. She finished fifth in the Sydney Games and is married to Kevin Jordan, a former UCLA All-American wide receiver. Josh, a former Pac-10 javelin champion, works in commercial real estate. He turns 48.

Three decades removed from that day, they both remember distinctly one thing.

Jenny says, "When he asked us who we thought would light the torch, we both guessed the same thing right away. Michael Jackson. Then I think we said Prince."

Josh says, "I remember we both said Michael Jackson, and I think we made up a Michael Jackson song about it."

Betsy Johnson says secrecy was of the utmost importance.

"Peter Ueberroth had sent a car for Rafer and picked him up right after he made a speech in the Valley," she recalls. "When he got home, he told me and he also said that it had to be kept a secret. Peter wanted it that way. And the worst way to keep a secret is to tell your kids. They will tell other kids and the other kids will tell their parents and soon, you don't have a secret."

The stadium rocked and vibrated with pomp and circumstance. Athletes from around the world packed the field. Music played and people in the stands swayed to it. A rocket man lifted off and hovered above the stadium. Balloons were everywhere, reds and greens splashed on yellows and blues, and the lovable old place became a human easel. Soon, Gina Hemphill, Jesse Owens' granddaughter, was circling the track with a torch in her hand.

"That's when I knew my dad would be last, when it really hit me," Jenny Johnson says.

Her brother, Josh, says, "Climbing those stairs, that was the coolest thing. It never crossed my mind that he wouldn't make it."

Nor did their mother worry about that, even though she understood the physical toll it would take and had watched him train in the weeks leading up to the opening ceremony. He ran in a parking garage in Newport Beach, where they visited her parents. Nobody recognized him and put two and two together.

Betsy had been in the stands in Rome in '60, a 17-year-old with a little camera hanging around her neck, when he won perhaps the Games' most memorable decathlon. She had met Johnson once, and was with her family on a trip to Europe. When she saw how he won the decathlon, it got her attention. Same with the rest of the world. Eleven years later, they were married.

"I knew there was no way he wouldn't get up those steps," Betsy Johnson says.

She knew from 13 years of marriage, which would become 49 years. She knew from all he achieved in life and how he handled his fame with his family.

There was never a trophy or a hint of memorabilia around the house.

"It was all in the garage," Betsy says. "In the house, we had all the kid's stuff. He made sure they were the special ones, not him."

For a while, the gold medal from Rome, as well as the silver he won in '56 in Melbourne, were tucked under their mattress. "I made him get a safe deposit box," Betsy says.

He was in many movies, and the kids were still the biggest deal in the Johnson household.

He wrestled the gun out of Sirhan Sirhan's hand moments after Sirhan shot Bobby Kennedy at L.A.'s Ambassador Hotel in 1968 and never felt any sense of heroics — only sadness that Kennedy died.

He started the California Special Olympics and treated its participants as he treated his family. Both took precedence.

It was this lack of bravado that brought his children into a world of amazement when he lit the Olympic torch.

"I don't think, for a long time," Betsy Johnson says, "that they realized what he did or who he was."

Jenny says that, not until after the torch lighting, did she start to get it. "I'm not sure I understood how beloved he was," she says.

"The moment," Josh says, "that he started climbing those stairs. That's when I started to understand."

The aftermath of the torch lighting brought more family perspective.

Josh says, "After that, he was like a rock star."

Jenny says: "It was just cool. Even at 11 years old, I knew this was something special."

Betsy says her children suddenly saw the special nature of their father.

"Everywhere we went, to other events during the Games, there were people wanting pictures or autographs," she says. "Rafer never sat on the aisle, and once, when we were leaving and he was surrounded by people, he tossed me the car keys and said he would meet us somewhere later."

That was Rafer Johnson, protecting his family.

When he died Dec. 2, 2020, there was an outpouring of tributes appropriate of the man's life and accomplishments. Newspaper articles filled the sports pages. Television went well beyond simple sound bites. Special stories about him were in abundance, and all were told.

But perhaps the most fitting tribute was a silent one. They lit the torch for a day at the Coliseum.

Dwyre is a former Times sports editor.

BASEBALL

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Arizona	46	32	.590	–	5-5
San Francisco	44	33	.571	1½	9-1
DODGERS	43	33	.566	2	6-4
San Diego	37	40	.481	8½	4-6
Colorado	30	49	.380	16½	1-9
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Cincinnati	41	36	.532	–	9-1
Milwaukee	39	37	.513	1½	5-5
Chicago	37	38	.493	3	9-1
Pittsburgh	35	41	.461	5½	1-9
St. Louis	31	45	.408	9½	4-6
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Atlanta	49	27	.645	–	9-1
Miami	44	34	.564	6	7-3
Philadelphia	39	37	.513	10	7-3
New York	35	41	.461	14	4-6
Washington	29	47	.382	20	3-7

Saturday's results

at DODGERS 8, Houston 7
ANGELS 25, at Colorado 1
Chicago 9, at St. Louis 1
New York 4, at Philadelphia 2
at San Francisco 7, Arizona 6
at Cleveland 4, Milwaukee 2
at Miami 4, Pittsburgh 3, 11 innings
Atlanta 7, at Cincinnati 6
Washington 2, at San Diego 0

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	47	29	.618	–	6-4
ANGELS	42	36	.538	6	5-5
Houston	41	36	.532	6½	3-7
Seattle	37	38	.493	9½	5-5
Oakland	20	59	.253	28½	1-9
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Minnesota	39	39	.500	–	4-6
Cleveland	37	39	.487	1	6-4
Detroit	33	42	.440	4½	6-4
Chicago	33	45	.423	6	4-6
Kansas City	22	55	.286	16½	4-6
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Tampa Bay	53	27	.663	–	5-5
Baltimore	46	29	.613	4½	5-5
New York	42	35	.545	9½	4-6
Toronto	42	36	.538	10	5-5
Boston	40	38	.513	12	7-3

Saturday's results

ANGELS 25, at Colorado 1
at DODGERS 8, Houston 7
Kansas City 9, at Tampa Bay 4
at New York 1, Texas 0
at Cleveland 4, Milwaukee 2
at Toronto 7, Oakland 3
at Chicago 5, Boston 4
at Baltimore 6, Seattle 4, 10 innings
at Detroit 3, Minnesota 2

TODAY'S GAMES

INTERLEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
HOU/Brown (R)	6-4	3.78	4 p.m.
Dodgers/Gonsolin (R)	4-2	2.92	ESPN
Angels/Anderson (L)	4-1	5.64	Noon
COL/Gomber (L)	4-7	7.25	BSW
MIL/Burnes (R)	5-5	3.96	10:30 a.m.
CLE/Civale (R)	2-2	2.67	

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
CHI/Stroman (R)	9-4	2.28	7 a.m.
STL/Liberatore (L)	1-2	6.12	ESPN
NY/Carrasco (R)	2-3	6.34	10:30 a.m.
PHI/Wheeler (R)	6-4	3.48	MLB
ATL/Morton (R)	6-6	3.71	10:30 a.m.
CIN/TBD	—	—	
PIT/Oviedo (R)	3-7	4.30	10:30 a.m.
MIA/Pérez (R)	4-1	1.54	
ARI/Nelson (R)	3-4	5.31	1 p.m.
SF/DeSclafani (R)	4-6	4.38	
WAS/Gore (L)	3-6	4.02	1 p.m.
SD/Lugo (R)	3-3	3.86	MLB*

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
MIN/Ober (R)	4-4	2.83	9 a.m.
DET/Lorenzen (R)	2-5	4.00	
SEA/Kirby (R)	6-6	3.29	10:30 a.m.
BAL/Bradish (R)	3-3	3.88	
TEX/Eovaldi (R)	9-3	2.80	10:30 a.m.
NY/Cole (R)	8-1	2.64	
OAK/Medina (R)	1-6	7.01	10:30 a.m.
TOR/Kikuchi (L)	6-2	3.97	
KC/Lynch (L)	1-3	4.45	10:30 a.m.
TB/Glasnow (R)	2-1	4.97	
BOS/Crawford (R)	2-3	3.74	11 a.m.
CHI/TBD	—	—	

* joined in progress

ODDS

INTERLEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at DODGERS	-134	Houston	+114
ANGELS	-142	at Colorado	+120
Milwaukee	OFF	at Cleveland	OFF

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
Chicago	-134	at St. Louis (in London)	+ 114
at Philadelphia	-168	New York	+142
Atlanta	-164	at Cincinnati	+138
at Miami	-174	Pittsburgh	+146
at San Francisco	-130	Arizona	+110
at San Diego	-190	Washington	+160

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
Minnesota	-142	at Detroit	+120
Texas	-112	at New York	-104
Seattle	-132	at Baltimore	+112
at Toronto	-290	Oakland	+235
at Tampa Bay	-270	Kansas City	+220
at Chicago	OFF	Boston	OFF

LEADERS

Through Friday

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	R	H	Avg.
Arraez, Miami	71	271	33	109	.402
Acuña, Atlanta	75	304	66	100	.329
Freeman, DODGERS	75	298	60	95	.319
Castellanos, Philadelphia	73	287	44	89	.310
Carroll, Arizona	74	266	58	80	.301
Stott, Philadelphia	71	288	32	85	.295
Díaz, Colorado	67	239	27	70	.293
Smith, DODGERS	55	192	34	56	.292
Meneses, Washington	70	285	29	83	.291
Thomas, Washington	73	290	50	84	.290

Home runs

Alonso, New York	23
Olson, Atlanta	23
Soler, Miami	21
Schwarber, Philadelphia	20
Muncy, DODGERS	18
Betts, DODGERS	18
Albies, Atlanta	17
Martinez, DODGERS	16
Carroll, Arizona	16

DODGERS 8
ASTROS 7

Streak	Won 4	This month	9-10
Home	24-14	Road	19-19
Division	12-10	Interleague	10-6

Next: Today vs. Astros, Dodger Stadium, 4 p.m.
TV/Radio: ESPN/570, 1020

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Altuve 2b	5	2	3	1	.263	Betts rf-2b	4	0	0	0	.257
Brgmn 3b	5	1	2	4	.249	Freeman 1b	3	1	0	0	.316
Tucker rf	2	1	1	0	.275	Smith c	3	2	1	1	.292
J.Abreu 1b	4	0	2	1	.229	J.Mrtnz dh	2	1	0	0	.254
Diaz c	5	0	2	1	.276	1-DeLuca dh	0	1	0	0	.190
Peña ss	4	0	1	0	.249	Heyward lf-rf	2	2	1	3	.241
Madris dh	3	0	0	0	.000	Outman cf	4	0	1	1	.240
Julks lf	4	1	1	0	.253	Vargas 2b	2	0	0	0	.202
Meyers cf	3	2	1	0	.225	a-Peralta lf	2	1	1	2	.267
Totals	**35**	**7**	**13**	**7**		Rojas ss	3	0	0	0	.233
						Busch 3b	3	0	1	0	.220
						Totals	**28**	**8**	**5**	**7**	

Houston	001 051 000 –7	13	0
Dodgers	300 000 23x –8	5	0

a-homered for Vargas in the 7th. 1-ran for J.Martinez in the 8th.

Walks—Houston 5: Tucker 3, Madris 1, Meyers 1. Dodgers 6: Freeman 1, Smith 1, J.Martinez 2, Rojas 1, Busch 1. **Strikeouts**—Houston 9: Altuve 1, Diaz 1, Peña 3, Madris 2, Julks 1, Meyers 1. Dodgers 8: Betts 1, Freeman 1, Smith 1, Outman 2, Peralta 1, Rojas 1, Busch 1. **LOB**—Houston 7, Dodgers 4. **2B**—Meyers (10), Diaz (9), J.Abreu (12), Bregman (10), Busch (3), Outman (10). **HR**—Bregman (11), off Miller; Smith (11), off Blanco; Heyward (8), off Blanco; Peralta (5), off Maton. **RBIs**—Altuve (11), Bregman 4 (48), Diaz (16), J.Abreu (34), Smith (39), Heyward 3 (17), Peralta 2 (28), Outman (34). **SB**—Altuve (5). **SF**—J.Abreu, Heyward. **DP**—Dodgers 3 (Busch, Vargas, Freeman; Vargas, Freeman; Betts, Freeman).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Blanco	6	2	3	3	2	6	99	4.63
Maton	⅔	2	2	2	0	0	12	1.91
Neris, H, 15	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.15
B.Abreu, L, 2-2, BS, 2-5	⅓	1	3	3	3	0	30	2.75
Stanek	⅔	0	0	0	1	2	19	4.38
Dodgers	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Miller	4	10	6	6	3	3	80	4.13
Almonte	1	0	0	0	1	1	12	5.85
Brasier	1	2	1	1	1	1	14	3.86
Bickford, W, 2-2	2	0	0	0	0	4	25	6.83
Phillips, S, 10-11	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	2.05

IBB—by Brasier (Tucker). **HBP**—Maton (Heyward).

U—Manny Gonzalez, Quinn Wolcott, Junior Valentine, Jose Navas. **T**—2:51. **Tickets sold**—49,218 (56,000).

METS 4
PHILLIES 2

Max Scherzer struck out eight over six innings, Starling Marte's two hits included a solo homer, and former Philadelphia reliever David Robertson earned his 11th save to lead New York.

New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Nimmo cf	4	1	2	1	.281	Schwarber lf	4	0	0	0	.182
S.Marte rf	4	2	2	1	.258	Turner ss	4	0	1	1	.244
Lindor ss	4	0	2	0	.222	Castllns rf	3	1	3	1	.317
Alonso 1b	4	0	0	1	.221	Harper dh	3	0	0	0	.291
Pham dh	4	0	1	1	.255	Realmuto c	3	0	0	0	.252
Álvarez c	3	0	0	0	.225	Stott 2b	4	0	2	0	.298
Canha lf	4	0	0	0	.242	Bohm 3b-1b	4	0	0	0	.259
Guillorme 2b	3	1	2	0	.256	Marsh cf	4	1	2	0	.282
Mendick 3b	3	0	0	0	.000	Clemens 1b	2	0	0	0	.228
Totals	**33**	**4**	**9**	**4**		a-Hrrisn 3b	2	0	1	0	.220
						Totals	**33**	**2**	**9**	**2**	

New York	101 002 000 –4	9	0
Philadelphia	000 110 000 –2	9	0

a-singled for Clemens in the 7th.

Walks—New York 1: Álvarez 1. Philadelphia 3: Castellanos 1, Harper 1, Realmuto 1. **Strikeouts**—New York 8: S.Marte 1, Lindor 1, Pham 2, Álvarez 1, Canha 2, Guillorme 1. Philadelphia 10: Schwarber 3, Turner 1, Harper 1, Realmuto 2, Stott 1, Bohm 1, Marsh 1. **LOB**—New York 3, Philadelphia 7. **2B**—Marsh (13). **3B**—Guillorme (1). **HR**—S.Marte (4), off Sánchez; Castellanos (9), off Scherzer. **RBIs**—S.Marte (23), Nimmo (34), Alonso (52), Pham (29), Castellanos (44), Turner (25). **SB**—Stott (13), Castellanos (5). **DP**—New York 3 (Guillorme, Lindor, Alonso; Guillorme, Lindor, Alonso; Guillorme, Lindor, Alonso); Philadelphia 3 (Bohm, Stott, Clemens; Stott, Turner, Clemens; Turner, Stott, Bohm).

New York	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Scherzer, W, 7-2	6	7	2	2	1	8	107	3.95
Raley, H, 14	⅔	1	0	0	0	1	11	2.77
Ottavino, H, 8	⅔	0	0	0	2	1	26	3.77
Robertson, S, 11-13	1⅔	1	0	0	0	0	13	1.64
Philadelphia	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Sánchez, L, 0-1	5	5	3	3	0	4	75	4.05
Y.Marte	1	3	1	1	0	0	13	6.62
Strahm	1	1	0	0	0	1	11	4.07
Hoffman	1	0	0	0	0	2	11	3.31
Covey	1	0	0	0	1	1	14	7.50

Inherited runners-scored—Ottavino 1-0, Robertson 2-0, Y.Marte 1-1. **WP**—Ottavino.

U—Brian Walsh, Erich Bacchus, Doug Eddings, Mike Estabrook. **T**—2:39. **Tickets sold**—43,586 (42,901).

BRAVES 7
REDS 6

Cincinnati's longest winning streak in 66 years was stopped at 12 games when former Reds closer Raisel Iglesias struck out Jonathan India for the final out in the eight-homer slugfest.

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Acuña Jr. rf	4	0	1	0	.328	Nwmn 3b	4	0	1	0	.268
Albies 2b	4	2	2	1	.270	b-Benson	1	1	1	1	.266
Riley 3b	5	1	2	1	.267	McLain 2b	5	1	2	2	.309
Olson 1b	4	2	2	2	.236	India dh	5	0	0	0	.261
Ozuna dh	5	1	2	2	.244	DLCruz ss	3	1	1	0	.359
d'Arnaud c	5	1	4	1	.283	Steer lf	4	1	1	2	.271
Rosario lf	4	0	1	0	.274	Votto 1b	4	0	1	0	.294
Arcia ss	5	0	0	0	.321	Senzel rf	2	0	0	0	.242
Harris II cf	3	0	0	0	.250	Maile c	1	0	0	0	.241
Totals	**39**	**7**	**14**	**7**		Friedl cf	4	1	1	0	.314
						Casali c	2	0	1	0	.169
						a-Fraley rf	2	1	1	1	.272
						Totals	**37**	**6**	**10**	**6**	

Atlanta	012 300 100 –7	14	1
Cincinnati	002 200 002 –6	10	1

a-grounded out for Casali in 6th. b-homered for Newman in 9th.

Walks—Atlanta 3: Olson 1, Rosario 1, Harris II 1. Cincinnati 2: De La Cruz 1, Senzel 1. **Strikeouts**—Atlanta 6: Riley 1, Ozuna 1, Rosario 2, Arcia 2. Cincinnati 10: Newman 1, McLain 1, India 3, Steer 1, Votto 1, Maile 1, Friedl 1, Casali 1. **E**—d'Arnaud (3), Casali (2). **LOB**—Atlanta 10, Cincinnati 6. **2B**—Olson (13), Riley (14). **HR**—d'Arnaud (6), off Ashcraft; Albies (18), off Ashcraft; Olson (24), off Ashcraft; Ozuna (15), off Young; McLain (4), off Shuster; Steer (11), off Shuster; Fraley (11), off Iglesias; Benson (3), off Iglesias. **RBIs**—d'Arnaud (18), Albies (54), Ozuna 2 (34), Riley (38), Olson 2 (57), McLain 2 (17), Steer 2 (42), Fraley (47), Benson (6). **DP**—Cincinnati 1 (McLain, Votto).

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Shuster	3⅔	7	4	4	0	2	73	5.00
Tonkin, W, 4-2	2⅓	0	0	0	2	2	43	3.00
Anderson, H, 12	1	1	0	0	0	1	22	3.16
Minter, H, 6	1	0	0	0	0	2	12	5.05
Iglesias, S, 11-13	1	2	2	2	0	3	18	4.79
Cincinnati	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Ashcraft, L, 3-6	4	10	6	6	0	2	87	7.17
Cruz	2	0	0	0	1	2	29	5.46
Young	⅔	1	1	1	1	0	14	2.87
Duarte	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	1	4.50
Bracho	2	3	0	0	1	2	33	3.68

HBP—Ashcraft (Acuña Jr.).

T—3:09. **Tickets sold**—43,498 (43,891).

MARLINS 4
PIRATES 3

Miami's Jon Berti drove in the winning run with a single in the 11th inning after Yuli Gurriel tied it at 3 with a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 10th, but Luis Arraez's batting average fell to .401.

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Miami	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Palcios lf	5	1	0	0	.246	Arraez 2b	3	1	1	2	.401
McCtchn dh	2	1	2	0	.267	Soler rf	4	0	0	0	.248
Swinski cf	2	0	0	0	.219	J.Davis cf	1	0	0	0	.263
a-Joe lf	3	0	0	0	.244	DL Cruz lf	5	1	1	0	.273
Santana 1b	3	0	1	1	.229	Sánchz cf	5	0	0	0	.255
Hayes 3b	5	0	1	1	.254	Cooper dh	4	0	1	0	.239
H.Davis rf	5	0	1	0	.250	Gurriel 1b	4	0	2	1	.264
Bae cf	0	0	0	0	.246	Wendle ss	5	1	2	0	.252
Marcano ss	3	0	0	0	.238	Stallings c	4	0	3	0	.187
b-Castro ss	2	0	0	0	.240	1-Hmpsn	0	0	0	0	.240
Gonzales 2b	4	1	0	0	.000	Fortes c	0	0	0	0	.237
Delay c	5	0	1	1	.278	Berti 3b	5	1	2	1	.277
Totals	**39**	**3**	**6**	**3**		Totals	**40**	**4**	**12**	**4**	

Pittsburgh	000 000 011 10 _ 3	6	0
Miami	000 020 000 11 _ 4	12	0

One out when winning run scored. a-struck out for Suwinski in the 6th. b-struck out for Marcano in the 9th. 1-ran for Stallings in the 9th.

Walks—Pittsburgh 6: McCutchen 3, Santana 2, Gonzales 1. Miami 3: Arraez 2, Cooper 1. **Strikeouts**—Pittsburgh 9: Palacios 2, Joe 1, Hayes 1, Marcano 1, Castro 2, Gonzales 1, Delay 1. Miami 5: De La Cruz 1, Sánchez 2, Cooper 1, Berti 1. **LOB**—Pittsburgh 11, Miami 12. **2B**—McCutchen 2 (9), H.Davis (2), Delay (5), De La Cruz (16), Gurriel (8). **HR**—Arraez (3), off Bido. **RBIs**—Santana (37), Delay (10), Hayes (32), Arraez 2 (37), Gurriel (15), Berti (14). **SF**—Gurriel. **S**—Fortes. **DP**—Pittsburgh 1 (Gonzales, Santana).

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bido	5⅔	9	2	2	0	5	89	3.45
De Los Santos	1⅓	0	0	0	1	0	11	1.80
Contreras	1	1	0	0	0	0	13	6.24
Bednar	2	1	1	0	2	0	29	1.50
Perdomo, L, 1-1	⅓	1	1	0	0	0	5	3.60
Miami	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Hoeing	5	0	0	0	3	2	65	2.31
Okert, H, 8	⅔	1	0	0	1	1	20	2.08
Chargois, H, 3	1⅓	1	0	0	0	0	20	3.93
Floro, H, 9	⅔	2	1	1	0	1	12	4.15
Scott, BS, 2-4	1⅓	1	1	1	1	2	25	3.41
Brazoban	1	1	1	0	1	0	19	3.55
Nardi, W, 5-1	1	0	0	0	0	3	17	2.70

IBB—by Bednar (Arraez).

T—3:08. **Tickets sold**—24,668 (37,446).

ANGELS 25
ROCKIES 1

Streak	Won 1	This month	12-9
Home	20-16	Road	22-20
Division	15-12	Interleague	10-9

Next: Today at Colorado, noon PDT
TV/Radio: Bally Sports West/830

Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ward lf	6	2	2	3	.245	Profar dh	3	0	0	0	.236
Ohtani dh	7	1	1	1	.294	Tovar ss	4	0	1	0	.259
Trout cf	3	3	3	1	.258	McMhn 3b	2	0	0	0	.264
b-Vlzqz cf	3	0	0	0	.227	Montes 3b	2	0	1	0	.233
Drury 2b	5	3	3	4	.273	Díaz c	1	0	0	0	.292
Rngfo 2b	1	0	0	0	.205	a-Alfaro c	3	0	0	0	.115
Thaiss c	6	3	3	2	.277	Jones rf	4	0	1	0	.326
Rnfre 1b	5	3	5	4	.261	Grichuk lf	4	0	1	0	.293
Escbr 3b	4	4	2	1	.500	Castro 2b	4	0	1	0	.277
Padlo 3b	1	0	0	0	.125	Montero 1b	3	0	1	0	.213
Mniak rf	5	5	5	4	.337	Doyle cf	3	1	1	1	.215
Fltchr ss	6	1	4	5	.273	Totals	**33**	**1**	**7**	**1**	
Totals	**52**	**25**	**28**	**25**							

Angels	02(13) 801 010 –25	28	0
Colorado	000 000 010 – 1	7	0

a-grounded out for Díaz in 4th. b-grounded out for Trout in 5th.

Walks—Angels 6: Ward 1, Trout 1, Rengifo 1, Thaiss 1, Renfroe 1, Escobar 1. **Strikeouts**—Angels 3: Ohtani 2, Velazquez 1. Colorado 12: Profar 3, Tovar 1, Díaz 1, Jones 1, Grichuk 1, Castro 2, Montero 2, Doyle 1. **LOB**—Angels 7, Colorado 6. **2B**—Renfroe 2 (18), Moniak 3 (10), Montes (2). **3B**—Tovar (2). **HR**—Trout (17), off C.Anderson; Drury (13), off C.Anderson; Thaiss (4), off C.Anderson; Moniak (7), off Carasiti; Fletcher (1), off Davis; Doyle (6), off Ingram. **RBIs**—Fletcher 5 (6), Trout (41), Drury 4 (41), Thaiss 2 (21), Ward 3 (30), Ohtani (60), Renfroe 4 (37), Escobar (1), Moniak 4 (19), Doyle (20). **DP**—Angels 1 (Renfroe, Fletcher); Colorado 3 (McMahon, Castro, Montero; Montes, Castro, Montero; Tovar, Montero).

Angels	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Canning, W, 6-2	6	4	0	0	0	7	99	3.99
Ingram	2	3	1	1	0	3	29	15.43
Davidson	1	0	0	0	0	2	11	6.33
Colorado	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
C.Anderson, L, 0-2	2⅔	10	9	9	2	1	57	6.57
Carasiti	⅓	4	6	6	2	0	26	7.08
Davis	3	11	9	9	1	2	73	10.61
Kauffmann	3	3	1	1	1	0	41	10.19

Inherited runners-scored—Carasiti 2-2. **HBP**—Canning (Profar), C.Anderson (Moniak). **WP**—Davis(2).

U—Nate Tomlinson, David Rackley, Chris Guccione, Edwin Moscoso. **T**—2:53. **Tickets sold**—45,274 (50,144).

ORIOLES 6
MARINERS 4

Ryan McKenna hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning after entering in the ninth as a defensive replacement. Aaron Hicks hit his fourth home run in 20 games since he joined Baltimore.

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Crawford ss	5	1	2	1	.243	Mullins dh	4	1	0	0	.258
Rodríguez cf	5	1	3	1	.243	Rtschmn c	4	0	0	0	.265
France 1b	5	0	0	0	.276	Santndr rf	4	1	4	2	.271
Hernández rf	4	0	0	0	.256	McKenna rf	1	1	1	2	.250
Kelenic lf	3	0	0	0	.251	O'Hearn 1b	4	0	1	0	.327
Suárez 3b	4	0	0	0	.221	Hays lf	4	0	0	0	.318
Raleigh c	4	0	1	0	.227	Hendrsn ss	4	1	2	0	.244
Ford dh	4	2	2	2	.182	Hicks cf	4	1	1	1	.306
Wong 2b	4	0	0	0	.164	Urías 3b	2	0	0	0	.259
Totals	**38**	**4**	**8**	**4**		Frazier 2b	3	1	2	1	.227
						1-Mateo ss	0	0	0	0	.221
						Totals	**34**	**6**	**11**	**6**	

Seattle	002 001 001 0 _ 4	8	0
Baltimore	011 011 000 2 _ 6	11	0

One out when winning run scored. 1-ran for Frazier in the 9th.

Walks—Seattle 1: Kelenic 1. Baltimore 5: Mullins 1, Rutschman 1, Urías 2, Frazier 1. **Strikeouts**—Seattle 9: Rodríguez 2, France 2, Hernández 1, Suárez 1, Raleigh 1, Wong 2. Baltimore 7: Mullins 1, Rutschman 2, O'Hearn 1, Hays 2, Frazier 1. **LOB**—Seattle 6, Baltimore 6. **3B**—Crawford (1). **HR**—Ford (5), off Kremer; Crawford (5), off Kremer; Rodríguez (13), off Kremer; Ford (6), off Bautista; Santander (13), off Miller; Hicks (4), off Speier; McKenna (2), off Topa. **RBIs**—Ford 2 (8), Crawford (25), Rodríguez (41), Frazier (33), Santander 2 (45), Hicks (11), McKenna 2 (10). **SB**—Henderson (5), Rodríguez (17), Frazier (7), Kelenic (9). **DP**—Seattle 2 (Suárez, Crawford, France; Raleigh, France, Raleigh).

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Miller	4⅓	6	3	3	3	4	95	3.88
Brash	1	1	0	0	0	0	11	3.82
Speier	⅔	1	1	1	1	1	19	2.73
Muñoz	⅔	1	0	0	0	1	13	0.00
Adcock	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	14	0.00
Sewald	1	0	0	0	1	0	15	2.67
Topa, L, 1-3	⅓	1	2	1	0	0	7	3.34
Baltimore	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Kremer	7	5	3	3	1	5	87	4.50
Cano, H, 18	⅔	2	0	0	0	0	16	0.95
Coulombe, H, 15	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.45
Bautista, BS, 20-25	1	1	1	1	0	2	16	1.26
Baumann, W, 5-0	1	0	0	0	0	2	10	4.23

T—3:14. **Tickets sold**—32,884 (45,971).

WHITE SOX 5
RED SOX 4

Elvis Andrus hit a game-ending RBI single in the ninth inning. Luis Robert Jr., Andrew Vaughn, Yasmani Grandal and Jake Burger homered for Chicago, which had dropped four of five games.

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Duran cf	5	1	2	0	.289	Bintndi lf	4	0	3	0	.283
Turner dh	5	0	1	1	.278	Andrsn 2b	4	0	0	0	.241
1-Dalbec dh	0	0	0	0	.182	Robrt Jr. cf	4	1	1	1	.262
Yoshida lf	4	0	0	0	.302	Jiménez dh	4	0	0	0	.258
C.Hamilton c	0	0	0	0	---	Vaughn 1b	4	1	1	1	.242
Devers 3b	3	2	2	0	.243	Grandal c	4	1	1	1	.260
Duvall rf	4	0	0	0	.269	Burger 3b	4	1	1	1	.226
Casas 1b	4	1	2	2	.221	Frazier rf	2	0	0	0	.196
Arroyo 2b	3	0	1	0	.251	b-Sheets	1	0	1	0	.233
D.Hmiltn ss	4	0	0	0	.111	2-Remillard	0	1	0	0	.294
Wong c	3	0	1	0	.234	Andrus ss	4	0	2	1	.207
a-Rfsndr lf	1	0	0	0	.267	Totals	**35**	**5**	**10**	**5**	
Totals	**36**	**4**	**9**	**4**							

Boston	010 002 001 –4	9	0
Chicago	010 012 001 –5	10	2

Two outs when winning run scored. a-struck out for Wong in the 9th. b-singled for Frazier in the 9th. 1-ran for Turner in the 9th. 2-ran for Sheets in the 9th.

Walks—Boston 3: Yoshida 1, Devers 2. Chicago 1: Frazier 1. **Strikeouts**—Boston 11: Duran 1, Turner 1, Yoshida 1, Duvall 2, Casas 1, Arroyo 1, D.Hamilton 1, Wong 2, Refsnyder 1. Chicago 7: Anderson 1, Jiménez 2, Burger 2, Frazier 1, Andrus 1. **E**—Burger (3), Vaughn (3). **LOB**—Boston 10, Chicago 5. **2B**—Arroyo (11). **HR**—Casas (9), off Lynn; Grandal (6), off Paxton; Burger (17), off Winckowski; Robert Jr. (19), off Winckowski; Vaughn (12), off Winckowski. **RBIs**—Arroyo (18), Casas 2 (27), Turner (41), Grandal (19), Burger (37), Robert Jr. (39), Vaughn (45), Andrus (17). **SB**—Duran 3 (14), Duvall (2), Remillard (1). **CS**—Frazier (1). **SF**—Arroyo.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Paxton	4	2	1	1	0	3	63	3.19
Winckowski	2	5	3	3	1	0	31	2.84
Murphy	2	1	0	0	0	3	31	0.00
Jansen, L, 2-4	⅔	2	1	1	0	1	14	3.08
Chicago	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Lynn	5⅔	6	3	3	1	7	105	6.40
Santos	1	0	0	0	0	1	20	2.75
Kelly, H, 9	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1	16	4.12
Graveman, W, 3-3	1	2	1	1	2	2	28	2.70

HBP—Kelly (Duvall). **WP**—Graveman.

U—Adam Beck, Dan Iassogna, Ryan Wills, Gabe Morales. **T**—2:46. **Tickets sold**—33,054 (40,241).

TIGERS 3
TWINS 2

Zach McKinstry hit a two-run single in Detroit's three-run second. Reese Olson earned his first major league win with nine strikeouts. Carlos Correa and Joey Gallo hit homers for Minnesota.

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Julien 2b	5	0	0	0	.243	McKinstry rf	4	0	1	2	.242
Correa ss	4	1	2	1	.220	Torkelson 1b	4	0	1	0	.225
Kirilloff 1b-rf	4	0	1	0	.257	Carpenter lf	3	0	1	0	.274
Buxton dh	3	0	0	0	.207	1-Vierling lf	0	0	0	0	.263
b-Castro dh	1	0	1	0	.250	Báez ss	4	0	0	0	.232
Kepler rf	1	0	0	0	.207	Maton 3b	4	0	2	0	.162
a-Solano 1b	2	0	0	0	.272	2-Short 3b	0	0	0	0	.258
Lewis 3b	4	0	1	0	.312	Ibáñez 2b	4	1	0	0	.237
Gallo lf	4	1	1	1	.186	Cabrera dh	3	1	0	0	.228
Jeffers c	3	0	2	0	.265	Haase c	3	1	2	1	.226
Taylor cf	3	0	0	0	.216	Marisnick cf	3	0	1	0	.205
c-Farmer	1	0	0	0	.260	Totals	**32**	**3**	**8**	**3**	
Totals	**35**	**2**	**8**	**2**							

Minnesota	000 001 100 –2	8	0
Detroit	030 000 00x –3	8	1

a-grounded out for Kepler in the 7th. b-singled for Buxton in the 8th. c-struck out for Taylor in the 9th. 1-ran for Carpenter in the 8th. 2-ran for Maton in the 8th.

Walks—Minnesota 2: Kepler 1, Jeffers 1. Detroit 2: Carpenter 1, Cabrera 1. **Strikeouts**—Minnesota 13: Julien 3, Correa 1, Buxton 1, Lewis 1, Gallo 3, Jeffers 1, Taylor 2, Farmer 1. Detroit 11: McKinstry 1, Torkelson 3, Carpenter 1, Maton 1, Ibáñez 2, Cabrera 1, Haase 1, Marisnick 1. **E**—Maton (6). **LOB**—Minnesota 8, Detroit 7. **2B**—Jeffers (8). **HR**—Correa (11), off Olson; Gallo (12), off Shreve. **RBIs**—Correa (37), Gallo (25), Haase (21), McKinstry 2 (16). **DP**—Detroit 1 (Báez, Ibáñez, Torkelson).

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
López, L, 3-5	6	7	3	3	1	10	100	4.41
Pagán	1⅓	0	0	0	1	1	29	3.82
De León	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.67
Balazovic	⅔	1	0	0	0	0	6	0.00
Detroit	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Olson, W, 1-2	5⅓	4	1	1	1	9	88	4.74
Cisnero, H, 7	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	2	2.15
Shreve, H, 9	1	1	1	1	0	0	6	4.08
Foley, H, 13	1	3	0	0	0	0	13	2.43
Lange, S, 12-14	1⅓	0	0	0	1	4	28	3.82

De León pitched to 0 batters in the 8th

U—Alex MacKay, Alfonso Marquez, Ramon De Jesus, Lance Barrett. **T**—2:59. **Tickets sold**—24,403 (41,083).

CUBS 9
CARDINALS 1

At London Stadium, Ian Happ hit two solo home runs, Justin Steele struck out eight and Chicago beat St. Louis in Major League Baseball's pandemic-delayed return to the British capital.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Tchman cf	5	1	1	1	.284	Edman cf	4	1	1	0	.241
Hoernr 2b	5	1	1	0	.283	Gldsmdt 1b	3	0	1	1	.287
Suzuki rf	5	0	0	1	.262	Arenado 3b	4	0	1	0	.272
Happ lf	5	2	2	2	.268	Contreras c	4	0	0	0	.203
Swansn ss	3	2	2	2	.268	Walker dh	4	0	1	0	.301
Bllingr 1b	3	1	1	0	.253	Carlson rf	3	0	0	0	.241
a-Mncni 1b	2	0	0	0	.240	Nootbaar lf	4	0	1	0	.262
Morel dh	4	1	3	1	.283	DeJong ss	4	0	1	0	.232
Gomes c	4	0	2	1	.275	Donovan 2b	2	0	0	0	.272
Mdrigl 3b	4	1	2	1	.260	Totals	**32**	**1**	**6**	**1**	
Totals	**40**	**9**	**14**	**9**							

Chicago	023 200 002 –9	14	0
St. Louis	000 001 000 –1	6	1

a-struck out for Bellinger in the 7th.

Walks—Chicago 2: Swanson 2. St. Louis 3: Goldschmidt 1, Carlson 1, Donovan 1. **Strikeouts**—Chicago 5: Tauchman 1, Happ 1, Mancini 2, Madrigal 1. St. Louis 9: Edman 2, Goldschmidt 1, Contreras 1, Walker 2, Carlson 2, DeJong 1. **E**—DeJong (2). **LOB**—Chicago 6, St. Louis 7. **2B**—Madrigal (5), Tauchman (4), Hoerner (12), DeJong (7), Edman (14). **HR**—Happ 2 (7), off Wainwright; Swanson (8), off VerHagen. **RBIs**—Happ 2 (37), Madrigal (14), Morel (30), Gomes (24), Tauchman (15), Suzuki (26), Swanson 2 (33), Goldschmidt (39). **Runners left in scoring position**—Chicago 4 (Madrigal 2, Tauchman, Happ); St. Louis 4 (Carlson 2, Donovan 2). **RISP**_Chicago 5 for 14; St. Louis 1 for 6. **DP**—Chicago 1 (Madrigal, Hoerner, Mancini); St. Louis 2 (DeJong, Goldschmidt; DeJong, Donovan, Goldschmidt).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Steele, W, 8-2	6	5	1	1	1	8	89	2.62
Merryweather	1	1	0	0	1	0	14	2.97
Fulmer	1	0	0	0	1	1	21	4.96
Kay	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	2.08
St. Louis	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Wainwright, L, 3-2	3	11	7	7	1	0	72	6.56
Matz	3⅓	2	0	0	1	2	50	5.19
Woodford	1⅔	0	0	0	0	1	16	5.40
VerHagen	1	1	2	0	0	2	20	4.33

Inherited runners-scored—Matz 1-1. **WP**—Steele.

U—Adam Hamari, Vic Carapazza, Nick Mahrley, Jerry Layne. **T**—2:40. **Tickets sold**—54,662 (66,000).

YANKEES 1
RANGERS 0

Ron Marinaccio retired Marcus Semien on a game-ending popup with two on in the ninth, and Clay Holmes stranded a pair in the eighth. Billy McKinney hit his fourth homer since being called up.

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Semien 2b	5	0	3	0	.276	Bauers rf	4	0	0	0	.219
Seager ss	4	0	1	0	.354	Cabrera rf	0	0	0	0	.189
Lowe 1b	3	0	0	0	.271	Torres 2b	3	0	0	0	.246
García rf	3	0	1	0	.262	Bader cf	4	0	1	0	.245
Jung 3b	4	0	1	0	.273	Rizzo 1b	3	0	1	0	.273
Heim c	4	0	2	0	.279	Stanton dh	3	0	1	0	.187
1-J.Smith	0	0	0	0	.204	McKinney lf	3	1	1	1	.320
Garver dh	3	0	0	0	.254	K.-Falefa 3b	3	0	0	0	.239
2-Grossman	0	0	0	0	.227	Higashioka c	3	0	0	0	.214
Duran lf	4	0	0	0	.308	Volpe ss	2	0	0	0	.193
Taveras cf	4	0	0	0	.293	Totals	**28**	**1**	**4**	**1**	
Totals	**34**	**0**	**8**	**0**							

Texas	000 000 000 –0	8	0
New York	000 100 00x –1	4	0

1-ran for Heim in the 9th. 2-ran for Garver in the 9th.

Walks—Texas 3: Lowe 1, García 1, Garver 1. New York 2: Torres 1, Volpe 1.

Strikeouts—Texas 8: Lowe 2, Jung 2, Heim 1, Duran 1, Taveras 2. New York 8: Bauers 1, Bader 1, Rizzo 2, Stanton 1, McKinney 1, Kiner-Falefa 1, Volpe 1.

LOB—Texas 10, New York 5. **2B**—Heim (17). **HR**—McKinney (4), off Gray. **RBIs**—McKinney (7).

Runners left in scoring position—Texas 4 (Lowe, Jung, Garver, Semien); New York 2 (Rizzo 2). **RISP**—Texas 1 for 9; New York 1 for 2.

Runners moved up—Seager, Bauers.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray, L, 6-3	5	3	1	1	2	4	82	2.89
Anderson	2	1	0	0	0	4	37	3.60
Barlow	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.00
New York	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Severino, W, 1-2	6	5	0	0	2	4	95	5.25
Kahnle, H, 3	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.00
Peralta, H, 9	⅓	2	0	0	0	1	11	2.67
Holmes, H, 5	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.51
Marinaccio, S, 2-6	1	1	0	0	1	2	24	3.21

Inherited runners-scored—Holmes 2-0. **WP**—Holmes.

U—Carlos Torres, John Bacon, Cory Blaser, Andy Fletcher. **T**—2:28. **Tickets sold**—46,018 (47,309).

ROYALS 9
RAYS 4

Jordan Lyles ended a 15-game winless streak, and lowly Kansas City beat the majors' best team for the second time in three days. It was Lyles' first win since Sept. 30 while with Baltimore.

Kan.City	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Pratto 1b	5	1	1	2	.271	Díaz 1b	3	1	0	0	.305
Witt Jr. ss	4	0	1	2	.247	Franco ss	4	1	2	2	.290
Perez dh	4	0	0	0	.266	Raley lf	4	0	1	1	.276
Melendez rf	5	0	0	0	.212	Arzarna dh	4	1	1	0	.296
Garcia 3b	4	0	0	0	.280	Lowe rf	4	0	1	1	.284
Olivares lf	4	3	3	1	.257	Walls 3b	4	0	1	0	.213
Blanco lf	0	0	0	0	.267	Siri cf	4	0	0	0	.234
Waters cf	4	2	2	1	.222	Mejía c	4	0	0	0	.233
Lopez 2b	3	1	1	0	.210	Bruján 2b	3	1	2	0	.227
Fermin c	3	2	3	3	.264	Totals	**34**	**4**	**8**	**4**	
Totals	**36**	**9**	**11**	**9**							

Kansas City	003 401 010 –9	11	1
Tampa Bay	220 000 000 –4	8	0

Walks—Kansas City 2: Perez 1, Fermin 1. Tampa Bay 1: Díaz 1.

Strikeouts—Kansas City 8: Witt Jr. 1, Perez 1, Melendez 2, Garcia 2, Waters 1, Lopez 1. Tampa Bay 5: Raley 2, Lowe 1, Siri 1, Bruján 1.

E—Fermin (4). **LOB**—Kansas City 4, Tampa Bay 4. **2B**—Pratto (13), Witt Jr. (12), Olivares (11), Lowe (16), Bruján (1). **HR**—Waters (3), off Chirinos; Fermin (4), off Chirinos; Olivares (6), off Littell; Franco (9), off Lyles. **RBIs**—Waters (8), Pratto 2 (22), Witt Jr. 2 (38), Fermin 3 (13), Olivares (13), Franco 2 (36), Lowe (42), Raley (28). **SB**—Bruján (2). **SF**—Witt Jr..

Runners left in scoring position—Kansas City 2 (Witt Jr. 2); Tampa Bay 3 (Franco, Walls, Arozarena). **RISP**—Kansas City 3 for 8; Tampa Bay 2 for 5.

Runners moved up—Pratto 2. **GIDP**—Siri.

DP—Kansas City 1 (Witt Jr., Lopez, Pratto).

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lyles, W, 1-11	6	8	4	4	1	2	75	6.68
Hernández	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	4.54
Wittgren	2	0	0	0	0	2	23	3.29
Tampa Bay	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Chirinos, L, 3-3	5⅓	9	8	8	2	3	96	3.91
Littell	2⅔	2	1	1	0	2	32	5.79
Diekman	1	0	0	0	0	3	12	2.40

Inherited runners-scored—Littell 3-1. **HBP**—Chirinos (Lopez). **WP**—Chirinos.

U—Stu Scheuwater, Mark Wegner, Malachi Moore, Bruce Dreckman. **T**—2:18. **Tickets sold**—20,884 (25,025).

NATIONALS 2
PADRES 0

Jeimer Candelario and Lane Thomas hit solo homers, and Josiah Gray and three relievers combined to limit San Diego to four hits — all of them singles — to lead Washington to the victory.

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Thomas rf	4	1	3	1	.296	Kim 2b	4	0	0	0	.250
García 2b	3	0	0	0	.271	Tatis Jr. rf	4	0	1	0	.288
Candlrio 3b	3	1	1	1	.255	Soto lf	2	0	1	0	.275
Meneses dh	4	0	1	0	.291	Machado 3b	4	0	1	0	.253
Dickerson lf	3	0	1	0	.266	Bogaerts ss	3	0	0	0	.256
a-Garrett lf	0	0	0	0	.260	Crnwrth 1b	4	0	0	0	.212
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	.232	Sánchez c	3	0	1	0	.211
Smith 1b	3	0	0	0	.258	Odor dh	3	0	0	0	.209
D.Hill cf	4	0	0	0	.267	Grisham cf	3	0	0	0	.208
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	.229	Totals	**30**	**0**	**4**	**0**	
Totals	**32**	**2**	**6**	**2**							

Washington	101 000 000 –2	6	0
San Diego	000 000 000 –0	4	0

a-walked for Dickerson in the 9th.

Walks—Washington 4: García 1, Candelario 1, Garrett 1, Smith 1. San Diego 4: Soto 2, Bogaerts 1, Sánchez 1.

Strikeouts—Washington 5: Thomas 1, García 1, Meneses 1, D.Hill 1, Abrams 1. San Diego 12: Kim 1, Tatis Jr. 2, Soto 1, Bogaerts 1, Cronenworth 1, Sánchez 1, Odor 3, Grisham 2.

LOB—Washington 7, San Diego 7. **HR**—Candelario (9), off Waldron; Thomas (13), off Waldron. **RBIs**—Candelario (33), Thomas (38). **SB**—Tatis Jr. (14), Garrett (3), D.Hill (1). **CS**—Bogaerts (1).

Runners left in scoring position—Washington 3 (Abrams 2, Meneses); San Diego 2 (Bogaerts, Machado). **RISP**—Washington 0 for 3; San Diego 0 for 2.

DP—Washington 1 (Ruiz, Smith, Ruiz).

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray, W, 5-6	5⅓	4	0	0	4	6	99	3.43
Thompson, H, 5	1⅔	0	0	0	0	3	25	3.58
Finnegan, H, 5	1	0	0	0	0	2	16	3.90
Harvey, S, 5-10	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	3.58
San Diego	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Waldron, L, 0-1	4⅔	4	2	2	1	2	62	3.86
T.Hill	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	18	3.06
Martinez	1	0	0	0	0	1	14	3.24
Wilson	1	1	0	0	1	0	21	2.43
Morejon	⅓	0	0	0	2	0	18	0.00
García	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	10	5.56

Inherited runners-scored—Thompson 1-0, T.Hill 1-0, García 2-0.

U—James Hoye, D.J. Reyburn, Clint Vondrak, John Libka. **T**—2:45. **Tickets sold**—43,364 (40,222).

GIANTS 7
DIAMONDBACKS 6

Luis Matos hit his first career homer — a go-ahead, two-run drive in the sixth inning — and Joc Pederson and Blake Sabol also each had two RBIs as San Francisco won its 12th out of 13.

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	San Fran.	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Perdomo ss	5	1	2	0	.297	Wade Jr. 1b	4	1	1	0	.283
Marte 2b	4	3	2	2	.291	Schmitt 3b	0	0	0	0	.256
Carroll cf	5	1	0	0	.295	Estrada 2b	4	2	1	0	.281
C.Wlkr 1b	5	0	3	3	.278	Pedrsn dh	4	2	2	2	.272
1-Thomas	0	0	0	0	.216	Davis 3b	4	0	0	0	.280
Gurriel Jr. lf	4	0	1	1	.276	Conforto rf	2	0	1	1	.239
Smith dh	5	0	0	0	.196	Sabol lf	3	0	1	2	.260
Rivera 3b	4	0	1	0	.314	Johnson cf	0	0	0	0	.163
C.Kelly c	4	0	1	0	.200	Bailey c	4	0	1	0	.326
McCarthy rf	4	1	2	0	.238	Crawford ss	3	1	1	0	.224
Totals	**40**	**6**	**12**	**6**		Matos cf-lf	4	1	2	2	.257
						Totals	**32**	**7**	**10**	**7**	

Arizona	100 040 001 –6	12	1
San Francisco	201 022 00x –7	10	0

1-ran for C.Walker in the 9th.

Walks—Arizona 2: Marte 1, Gurriel Jr. 1. San Francisco 2: Conforto 2. **Strikeouts**—Arizona 12: Perdomo 1, Marte 1, Carroll 2, Smith 2, Rivera 3, C.Kelly 2, McCarthy 1. San Francisco 7: Wade Jr. 1, Estrada 1, Davis 2, Sabol 2, Matos 1. **E**—Carroll (1). **LOB**—Arizona 9, San Francisco 5. **2B**—C.Walker 2 (22), Rivera (10), Wade Jr. (12), Conforto (7). **3B**—Pederson (2). **HR**—Marte (13), off R.Walker; Matos (1), off M.Kelly. **RBIs**—Marte 2 (40), C.Walker 3 (52), Gurriel Jr. (44), Pederson 2 (30), Conforto (42), Sabol 2 (25), Matos 2 (4). **SB**—McCarthy (16). **SF**—Sabol. **DP**—Arizona 1 (Perdomo, Marte, C.Walker).

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
M.Kelly, L, 9-4	5	10	7	5	2	2	87	3.22
K.Nelson	2	0	0	0	0	4	24	2.83
Ruiz	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	3.77
San Francisco	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
R.Walker	1	2	1	1	1	2	27	1.96
Winn	3	5	3	3	0	3	44	3.75
Manaea, BS, 0-1	1	1	1	1	0	2	20	5.79
Jackson	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	2.16
Ta.Rogers, W, 4-2	1	1	0	0	0	1	7	2.67
Ty.Rogers, H, 16	2	0	0	0	0	3	23	1.86
Doval, S, 22-24	1	2	1	1	1	1	23	2.02

Jackson pitched to 1 batters in the 6th

HBP—M.Kelly (Crawford). **WP**—Doval.

U—Mike Muchlinski, Sean Barber, Alan Porter, Jim Wolf. **T**—2:39. **Tickets sold**—34,343 (41,915).

BLUE JAYS 7
ATHLETICS 3

Danny Jansen and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. each hit a two-run homer. Guerrero hadn't homered at home in 32 games before going deep the last two games. Oakland has lost nine of its last 10.

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Kemp 2b	4	1	1	0	.182	Springer rf	5	1	2	0	.261
Noda 1b	4	0	1	1	.238	Bichette ss	5	1	2	0	.317
Bleday lf	4	0	1	0	.209	Belt dh	3	1	1	1	.264
Brown rf	4	1	1	1	.186	Guro Jr. 1b	3	1	2	3	.282
Díaz dh	4	0	0	0	.209	Chpmn 3b	5	0	1	1	.268
Peterson 3b	3	1	1	0	.218	Mrrifld lf	4	0	2	0	.297
Langeliers c	4	0	1	0	.205	Kiermr cf	0	0	0	0	.275
Wade ss	4	0	2	1	.214	Varsho cf	3	1	0	0	.222
Ruiz cf	4	0	0	0	.262	Jansen c	4	1	1	2	.213
Totals	**35**	**3**	**8**	**3**		Espinal 2b	3	1	1	0	.221
						Totals	**35**	**7**	**12**	**7**	

Oakland	011 001 000 –3	8	0
Toronto	212 002 00x –7	12	1

Walks—Oakland 2: Noda 1, Peterson 1. Toronto 4: Belt 1, Guerrero Jr. 1, Varsho 1, Espinal 1. **Strikeouts**—Oakland 10: Noda 3, Bleday 2, Peterson 1, Langeliers 1, Wade 1, Ruiz 2. Toronto 6: Bichette 1, Belt 1, Chapman 2, Merrifield 1, Jansen 1. **E**—Bichette (8). **LOB**—Oakland 8, Toronto 10. **2B**—Peterson (5), Noda (14), Bichette 2 (19), Espinal (5). **HR**—Brown (5), off Berríos; Jansen (10), off Harris; Guerrero Jr. (11), off Pruitt. **RBIs**—Brown (17), Noda (31), Wade (11), Belt (17), Chapman (36), Guerrero Jr. 3 (48), Jansen 2 (32). **SF**—Belt.

Runners left in scoring position—Oakland 5 (Bleday, Noda 2, Ruiz, Wade); Toronto 5 (Chapman 2, Belt 2, Varsho). **RISP**—Oakland 1 for 8; Toronto 2 for 7.

Runners moved up—Langeliers, Ruiz, Guerrero Jr..

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Fujinami, L, 3-7	⅔	4	2	2	0	0	22	10.57
Harris	4⅔	5	4	4	4	6	87	4.91
Pruitt	1⅔	2	1	1	0	0	28	3.80
Long	1	1	0	0	0	0	15	3.03
Toronto	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Berríos, W, 8-5	6	6	3	2	2	8	96	3.60
Mayza	1	0	0	0	0	1	14	1.33
Pearson	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	4.68
García	⅔	2	0	0	0	0	8	5.34
Romano, S, 23-26	⅓	0	0	0	0	1	5	2.76

Inherited runners-scored—Harris 2-0, Pruitt 1-1, Romano 2-0. **HBP**—Harris (Guerrero Jr.), Berríos (Kemp).

U—Dan Bellino, Tom Hanahan, Shane Livensparger, Mark Ripperger. **T**—2:43. **Tickets sold**—41,720 (49,282).

GUARDIANS 4
BREWERS 2

Josh Naylor and David Fry had RBI singles in a two-run sixth, and Tanner Bibee struck out seven. Emmanuel Clase earned his 23rd save as four pitchers combined on a four-hitter.

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Yelich lf	2	2	1	0	.268	Kwan lf	4	1	1	0	.263
Contreras c	4	0	1	1	.246	Rosario ss	2	1	1	0	.256
Tellez 1b	4	0	0	0	.216	Ramírez 3b	3	1	2	0	.297
Adames ss	3	0	0	0	.213	J.Naylor 1b	4	0	1	1	.289
Winker dh	3	0	0	0	.192	Bell dh	3	0	1	0	.230
Anderson 3b	4	0	1	0	.224	1-Frman dh	0	1	0	0	.275
Tapia rf	4	0	0	0	.053	Giménez 2b	3	0	1	1	.242
Urías 2b	4	0	1	0	.146	Fry rf	3	0	2	1	.310
Wiemer cf	3	0	0	0	.211	Brennan rf	1	0	0	0	.266
Totals	**31**	**2**	**4**	**1**		B.Naylor c	4	0	0	0	.063
						Straw cf	4	0	0	0	.235
						Totals	**31**	**4**	**9**	**3**	

Milwaukee	101 000 000 –2	4	1
Cleveland	000 102 01x –4	9	1

1-ran for Bell in the 8th.

Walks—Milwaukee 4: Yelich 2, Adames 1, Winker 1. Cleveland 3: Rosario 1, Ramírez 1, Bell 1. **Strikeouts**—Milwaukee 11: Contreras 2, Adames 2, Winker 2, Anderson 2, Tapia 3. Cleveland 9: Rosario 1, J.Naylor 1, Giménez 1, Fry 1, B.Naylor 3, Straw 2. **E**—Yelich (1), Fry (1). **LOB**—Milwaukee 6, Cleveland 8. **2B**—Bell (15). **RBIs**—Contreras (25), J.Naylor (56), Fry (4), Giménez (27). **SB**—Yelich (17), Kwan (13). **Runners left in scoring position**—Milwaukee 2 (Tapia, Winker); Cleveland 5 (Fry 2, Straw, J.Naylor, B.Naylor). **RISP**—Milwaukee 1 for 6; Cleveland 3 for 12. **Runners moved up**—J.Naylor, Brennan. **GIDP**—Straw, J.Naylor. **DP**—Milwaukee 2 (Anderson, Urías, Tellez; Adames, Tellez).

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peralta, L, 5-7	5	4	3	3	3	5	98	4.65
Milner, BS, 0-2	⅔	1	0	0	0	1	14	2.76
Peguero	⅓	1	0	0	0	0	3	3.00
Strzelecki	1	1	0	0	0	2	22	4.72
Bush	1	2	1	1	0	1	19	7.45
Cleveland	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Bibee, W, 4-2	6	3	2	1	4	7	105	3.79
Morgan, H, 5	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	1.67
Stephan, H, 11	1	0	0	0	0	2	14	2.25
Clase, S, 23-28	1	1	0	0	0	2	17	2.48

Inherited runners-scored—Milner 2-1, Peguero 2-1. **HBP**—Peralta (Giménez), Strzelecki (Rosario). **WP**—Bibee.

U—Will Little, Lance Barksdale, Ryan Additon, Dan Merzel. **T**—2:40. **Tickets sold**—32,349 (34,788).

NOTES

Toe ligament is torn, Judge says

Two days after the New York Yankees said **Aaron Judge** possibly could start baseball activities this weekend, the slugger said he has a torn ligament in his right big toe and is not quite ready.

Judge was hurt June 3 when he crashed into the wall at Dodger Stadium while making a catch.

Etc.

The next start for Tampa Bay Rays ace **Shane McClanahan** (back tightness) was pushed back to Friday. ... St. Louis Cardinals right-hander **Jack Flaherty** (hip tightness) was scratched from his start Sunday. ... The Houston Astros signed first baseman **Jon Singleton** to a minor league contract. ... The Toronto Blue Jays put right-hander **Adam Cimber** (shoulder impingement) on the 15-day injured list. ... The Texas Rangers placed reliever **José Leclerc** (ankle) on the 15-day IL. ... Right-hander **Chad Kuhl** was cut by the Washington Nationals.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

David Zalubowski Associated Press

MIKE TROUT celebrates with Brandon Drury after hitting a solo home run — his 17th of the season — in the third. Drury and Matt Thaiss homered in the next two at-bats during the Angels' 13-run inning in Colorado.

Angels pour it on at Coors Field

ANGELS 25
COLORADO 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — The Angels got started early and kept piling on the runs. The only question was how many they would finish with.

Mike Trout, Brandon Drury and Matt Thaiss hit homers on consecutive pitches to open a 13-run third inning and Mickey Moniak capped it with a two-run homer in the Angels' record-setting 25-1 rout of the Colorado Rockies on Saturday night.

The Angels set franchise marks for runs, hits (28) and margin of victory in a game and tied team records for runs and homers with their huge third inning.

The margin of victory was tied for the third highest in the majors since 1900, behind Texas's 30-3 victory over Baltimore in 2007 and Boston's 29-4 victory over the St. Louis Browns in 1950.

"We were aggressive," Angels manager Phil Nevin said. "We attacked pitches in the zone. Hitting gets contagious at times. Big boys get into something like that [in the third], it fires up the clubhouse."

David Fletcher hit a three-run homer to cap an eight-run fourth as the Angels scored 21 runs on 17 hits in the third and fourth innings combined, sending 27 batters to the plate. Fletcher had three hits and five RBIs in his first game since being recalled from Salt Lake City.

"I don't think I've seen anything like that, honestly," Fletcher said. "Starting with three homers in a row, pretty unbelievable. Hopefully we saved some for tomorrow."

Hunter Renfroe and Moniak each had five hits and four RBIs for the Angels, who ended a three-game skid in a big way. Moniak stumbled around second base on a liner to center field in the sixth inning or his second double likely would have been a triple for the cycle.

"Just one after the other, the quality of at-bats we had today — incredible," Moniak said. "To be able to do that in that [third] inning and the whole game was what led to a historic day."

Drury had three hits and four RBIs, and Trout had three hits and an RBI. Both were replaced in the fifth with the game well in hand. Every Angels starter had at least one hit, one RBI and a run scored. Major league home run leader Shohei Ohtani had a mostly quiet night, though, finishing with an RBI single in seven at-bats.

Griffin Canning (6-2) gave up four hits in six scoreless innings. He struck out seven and walked none.

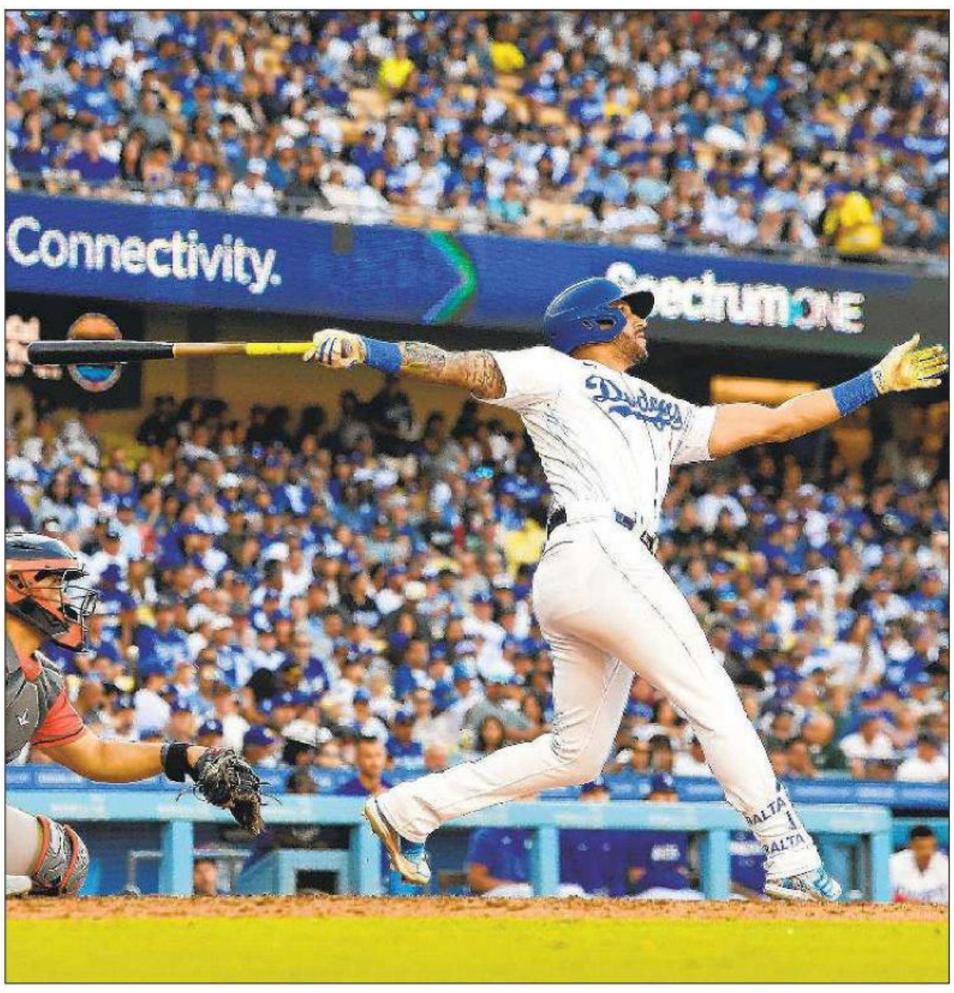
Moustakas added

After the game, the Angels acquired infielder Mike Moustakas from the Rockies for minor league right-hander Connor Van Scoyoc.

Moustakas, a former Chatsworth High standout, is hitting .270 with four homers and 17 RBIs in 47 games.

Van Scoyoc, whom the Angels drafted in the 11th round in 2018, is 4-3 with a 2.76 ERA at Class A Tri-City.

Dodgers stage wild comeback victory



Mark J. Terrill Associated Press

DAVID PERALTA clubs a two-run homer in the seventh inning to help spark a late Dodgers comeback, which culminated on a go-ahead balk by the Astros.

[**Dodgers,** from D1]
fuse for the comeback, Dodgers manager Dave Roberts saying it "breathed life into us, because we were anemic for quite some time," but it was the Astros who imploded in the eighth.

Houston right-hander Bryan Abreu walked Freddie Freeman, Will Smith and J.D. Martinez to open the inning, Smith fighting back from an 0-and-2 count to win a nine-pitch duel and Martinez spitting at a full-count breaking ball just off the plate.

Jason Heyward lofted a sacrifice fly to right that Kyle Tucker made a sliding catch of in the gap, Freeman scoring to trim the deficit to 7-6 and Smith alertly tagging and taking third.

James Outman then lined an RBI double to right field that got stuck in the padding on the wall to tie the score 7-7 and put runners on second and third with one out.

Houston manager Dusty Baker summoned setup man Ryne Stanek, who struck out Peralta for the second out. But as he prepared to throw a full-count pitch to Miguel Rojas, second base umpire Junior Valentine ruled Stanek balked, allowing pinch-runner Jonny DeLuca to jog home for the go-ahead run.

"He said I moved my [right] leg, which is pretty obvious because I stepped off the mound," Stanek said. "He said I moved my knee, which, as you're standing, you have to move to step off the rubber. So I thought that was an interesting reason, especially in a situation like that, where a balk is intentionally trying to deceive the runner.

"At what point was I trying to deceive a runner? I hadn't even come set yet. I was not even in the process of coming set. I was just stepping backward. So yeah, I just don't see how you can make that call right there."

Neither Stanek nor Baker put up much of an argument after the call, but after Stanek walked Rojas and struck out Michael Busch to end the inning, he fumed at Valentine as the umpire retreated toward center field, earning an ejection before storming back to the dugout. Baker was ejected as well.

"Junior called it, and then he walks away," Baker said. "Then [first base umpire Quinn Wolcott] told me, 'Don't go out there.' I was like, 'Wait a minute.' I needed some kind of explanation because Stanek was going ballistic. Boy, that's a tough way to lose."

Roberts, of course, thought Valentine got the call right.

"It was a balk," Roberts said. "Obviously in a game like that, you don't want it to be the deciding run, but they got the call right. I think Stanek was looking at the pitch clock, maybe trying to step off and call timeout, and his cleat got stuck, and his right [leg] moved. It was a balk by the letter of the law, so we'll take it."

The Dodgers' comeback took Bobby Miller off the hook after the rookie suffered through his second straight shaky start, giving up six runs and 10 hits in four innings and getting rocked for five runs and five hits in the fifth, Bregman following Altuve's bunt single with a grand slam to left field.

Miller went 3-0 with an 0.78 ERA in his first two starts but has been pounded for 13 earned runs and 17 hits in nine innings of his last two starts.

"You've got to limit damage and continue to make good pitches, and you can see that inning where his tempo sped up," Roberts said of Miller. "He just kind of forgot about his secondary pitches, and they were putting the ball in play."

The Dodgers staked Miller to a 3-0 lead on Smith's solo homer and Heyward's two-run homer off Astros starter Ronel Blanco.

Houston trimmed the deficit to 3-1 in the third and broke out for five runs in the fifth to take a 6-3 lead. A streak of $18\frac{1}{3}$ consecutive scoreless innings by the Dodgers' bullpen ended when Ryan Brasier gave up a run in the sixth.

There was only one hit in the decisive eighth inning for the Dodgers but plenty of great "team at-bats" in the eyes of Rojas.

"Kudos to the guys fighting for every pitch," Rojas said. "The whole team taking unselfish at-bats, not trying to be the hero, taking their walks."

'Run it back?' Only if Lakers keep core intact

[**Woike,** from D1]
teams unsure whether what they're hearing is fact or fiction, whether the motivations are genuine or more layered. Forget the marine layer — the smoke you see in the sky is filtering out of agencies and NBA teams' front offices. Some people call this "silly season."

A lot of times, you end up getting lied to. Sometimes, like with Jaquez and the Heat, the word that was out there turned out to be true.

The Lakers are a perfect example of this as they head into free agency this week.

Publicly, they've spoken about their desires to more or less "run it back" — to re-sign their major free agents while trying to build off of the 16-7 record the team had after the NBA All-Star break. Only Milwaukee had a better record from that point through the end of the regular season.

"That's a high priority for us," general manager Rob Pelinka said after the Lakers got eliminated in the Western Conference finals. "We feel like we've got a group of special players in the locker room. They enjoy playing with each other. Darvin [Ham] enjoys coaching them. We know that there's more growth and improvement in that group, especially if we get a training camp together. So I would say that's a high priority to keep our core players together."

> 'We feel like we've got a group of special players in the locker room, they enjoy playing with each other.'
>
> — Rob Pelinka,
> Lakers general manager

It was a public vote for continuity — though it would be hard to imagine an executive sitting down one day after the conference finals with an eye for tearing down the team, starting with the core that got you there.

But privately, that's been the message coming out of Lakers camp as well, that the public declarations are actually indicative of the team's plans this summer.

Restricted free agents Austin Reaves and Rui Hachimura are indeed priorities, they're saying, with the Lakers sending very strong signals that they will match offers on both. When NBA insiders speak about next season's team, D'Angelo Russell is usually included.

He will hit unrestricted free agency after a disappointing conference finals, but his value to the Lakers extends beyond the team having his Bird rights, which allows them to re-sign a player while exceeding the salary cap. He had enough big moments in the postseason and in the push to the playoffs, when he wasn't fighting injuries, for the team to re-sign him.

Though the Lakers' interest in Chris Paul was real (insiders said the Clippers were the more appealing option), it was always in a complementary role than in a starring one.

In fact, the Lakers' quiet approach to chasing stars — they were nowhere to be found in any headlines for Bradley Beal, Damian Lillard, Paul George or any other stars who have been involved in deals or trade rumors — again lends credence to the notion that they will have continuity on their minds as they enter free agency.

Lonnie Walker IV, Dennis Schroder, Troy Brown Jr., Wenyen Gabriel and Tristan Thompson are among the team's unrestricted free agents.

The lessons from their "three-star" experiment with Russell Westbrook are still fresh on that front, and while Russell, Malik Beasley and Jarred Vanderbilt played minor or no roles in the Lakers' finale against Denver, the flexibility and balance the team gained with their acquisitions at the trade deadline should have set the stage for the team's approach this summer.

It's been the sense around the NBA that that's how things will go for the Lakers this summer — the team obviously looking to improve around the edges while retaining the core.

But like Jaquez went through on draft night and every free agent experiences, you don't really know until it's official.

And because that can't happen until June 30, when teams can begin negotiating with free agents, all you can do is try to sort through the truth among the lies.

Ready for summer

The Lakers' Summer League team has started to take shape in the aftermath of the NBA draft, with the team agreeing to two-way deals with Florida center Colin Castleton and Missouri guard D'Moi Hodge while signing Florida forward Alex Fudge and Texas Christian guard Damion Baugh to Exhibit 10 contracts, which are training camp deals that come with bonuses if the team adds those players to its G League affiliate. The team is still expected to add another Exhibit 10 player.

Castleton will be the team's big man this summer, with his passing and rim protection at the top of the list why the Lakers coveted him after he went undrafted. Hodge, a former Horizon League defensive player of the year, shot 40% from three-point range on more than seven tries per game this past season. Baugh was an All-Big 12 player thanks to his defense and all-around playmaking, while Fudge, just 20, has rangy size for a wing at 6-foot-8.

They're expected to join a roster headlined by second-year players Max Christie and two-way forward Cole Swider, as well as 6-6 point guard Jalen Hood-Schifino and 6-7 wing Maxwell Lewis, the Lakers' two draft picks Thursday.

After games July 3 and 5 in Sacramento for the California Classic, the Lakers will open Las Vegas Summer League play July 7 against Golden State. They're also scheduled to play Charlotte, Boston and Memphis before finishing up in the end-of-league tournament.

Marco Garcia Associated Press

THE LAKERS chose Maxwell Lewis, a 6-foot-7 wing from Pepperdine, in the second round of the draft.

GOLF

Bradley breaks Travelers' 54-hole scoring record

WIRE REPORTS

Seth Wenig Associated Press

LEONA MAGUIRE takes a one-shot edge into the final round of the Women's PGA Championship. The 28-year-old from Ireland carded a 69 for her eighth consecutive round in the 60s as she seeks her first major title.

Keegan Bradley shot a six-under-par 64 on Saturday to break the tournament 54-hole scoring record at 21 under in the Travelers Championship, while Rickie Fowler had the second 60 of the week at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, Conn.

The previous three-round mark was 18 under, set by Brendan Todd on an empty course during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Bradley missed a 20-foot putt on No. 18 that would have tied the PGA Tour's 54-hole mark of 188. He opened with rounds of 62 and 63.

"I've wanted to win this tournament forever," said Bradley, a Vermont native who also lived in Massachusetts and was playing in front of a large contingent of family and friends. "So the feeling of wanting to push and win is something I need to fight against and just let myself go out and play."

Chez Reavie was a stroke back after a 63. He led for much of the back nine but made a bogey on the par-three 16th, while Bradley hit his tee shot to six feet and converted the birdie putt for a three-stroke swing. Bradley finished second to Reavie in the 2019 Travelers.

"I had a big lead, and then Keegan made a bunch of birdies throughout the beginning and middle part of the round to make it really close," Reavie said. "Tomorrow is going to be the opposite. It's going to be a shootout."

Fowler just missed the 13th sub-60 round in PGA Tour history. After failing to convert from just off the green on his final hole, he wound up tied for fourth at 15 under in the event in which Jim Furyk shot a tour-record 58 in 2016.

"I hit a decent chip, just hit it a little soft," Fowler said. "A tap-in for 60 is never a bad thing. It's better than a 61."

Fowler was a stroke behind Patrick Cantlay, who had a bogey-free 61 that included five birdies on his final seven holes. The former UCLA standout was the first player to shoot a 60 on this course, doing it as a 19-year-old amateur in 2011.

"The scoring on this golf course is usually on the back nine in that middle stretch," he said. "I played the front nine four under. If you can get the front nine, you can shoot a real low one, so tomorrow with the scores low, I imagine it'll take another low one."

Fowler, who shot the first 62 in U.S. Open history last week, had seven birdies on his first 11 holes Saturday.

His little chip shot from 60 feet on the par-five sixth hole bounced onto the green and rolled in for an eagle.

Maguire still leads Women's PGA

Leona Maguire birdied the final hole for her eighth consecutive round in the 60s and kept a one-shot lead with a fast-closing Jenny Shin lurking on an unexpected sunny day heading into the final round of the Women's PGA Championship in Springfield, N.J.

Maguire, who is looking for her second straight win and first major title, had a two-putt birdie to finish an up-and-down third round of two-under 69. She has a 54-hole total of seven under on a Baltusrol course that was tough, but gettable, after two days of intermittent rain softened the greens.

"I don't think it's any different," the 28-year-old Maguire, from Ireland, said. "I think it's one more round of golf. I have to hit one shot at a time tomorrow and play some really good golf. It doesn't matter that it's a major. It's really no different than any other day, and I'm not going to treat it any different."

Shin matched the best round of the tournament with a bogey-free 66 that featured five birdies. The 30-year-old South Korean has not won on the LPGA Tour since 2016.

Irvine's Rose Zhang, who won in her professional debut this month, got herself into contention at one under with a 68, finishing with a tap-in eagle at the par-five 18th.

Jiménez, Quigley, Els share lead

Miguel Angel Jiménez and Brett Quigley each shot an eight-under 64 to co-lead with Ernie Els at the Dick's Sporting Goods Open.

Els ran off three straight birdies to start the back nine en route to a 65 and joined Jiménez and Quigley at 12 under at the PGA Tour Champions event at Endicott, N.Y. All three shot bogey-free rounds.

Joe Durant is a shot back, while Bernhard Langer, trying for a record 46th win on the Champions circuit, shot a 68 and is six under for the tournament.

GOLF LEADERS

$20-MILLION TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP
At Cromwell, Conn.—Par 70
TPC River Highlands—6,852 yards
54-hole leaders

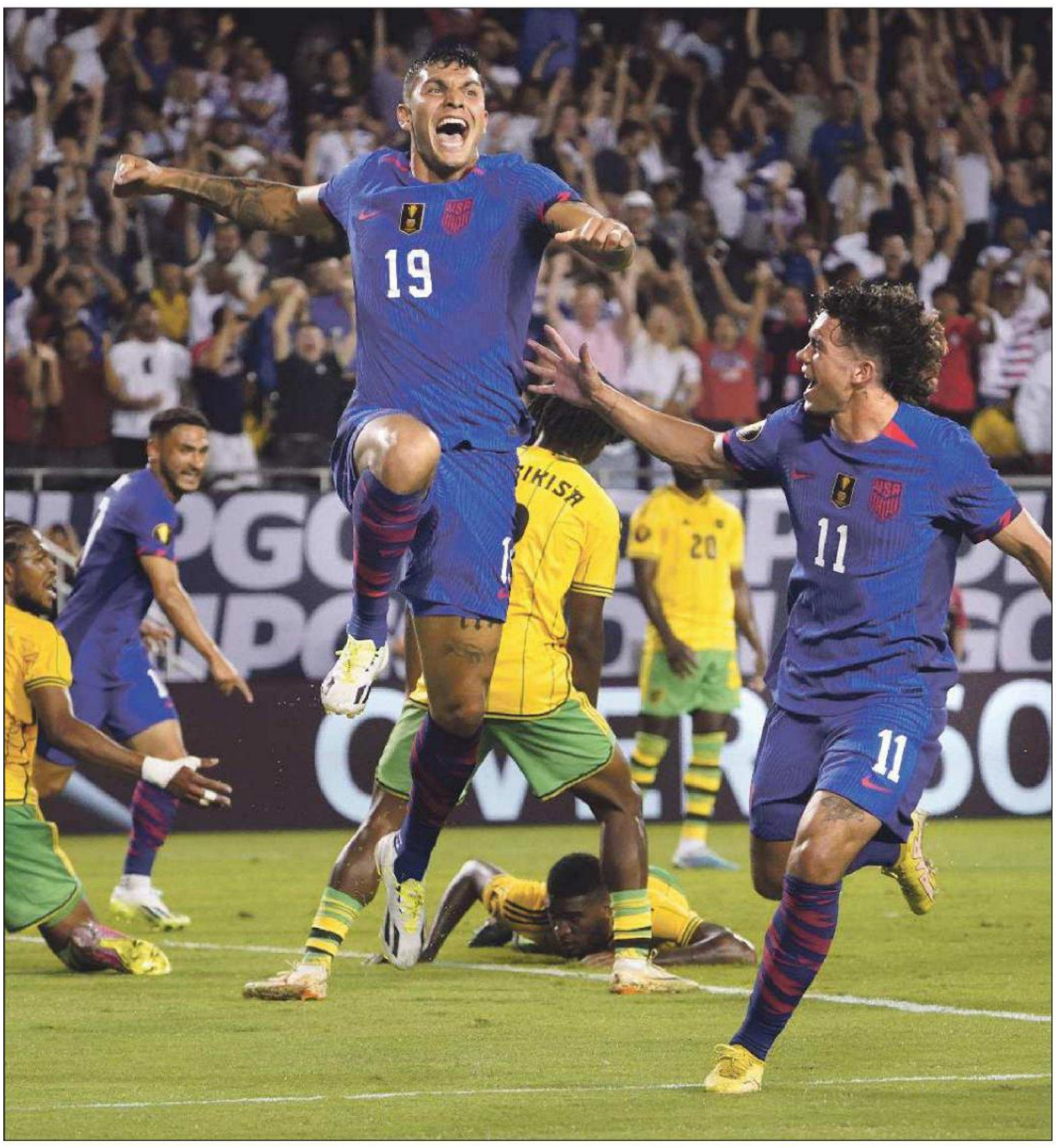
Keegan Bradley	62-63-64—189	-21
Chez Reavie	64-63-63—190	-20
Patrick Cantlay	65-68-61—194	-16
Rickie Fowler	70-65-60—195	-15
Denny McCarthy	60-65-70—195	-15
Adam Scott	62-68-65—195	-15
Brian Harman	66-66-64—196	-14
Min Woo Lee	66-65-65—196	-14
Scottie Scheffler	63-70-63—196	-14
Alex Smalley	70-62-64—196	-14
Justin Thomas	70-64-62—196	-14
Ludvig Aberg	67-65-65—197	-13
Corey Conners	67-65-65—197	-13
Lucas Herbert	67-64-66—197	-13
Zac Blair	65-65-68—198	-12
Hideki Matsuyama	69-64-65—198	-12
Rory McIlroy	68-64-66—198	-12
Sungjae Im	65-67-67—199	-11
Michael Kim	68-65-66—199	-11
Xander Schauffele	68-64-67—199	-11

$9-MILLION KPMG WOMEN'S PGA CHAMPIONSHIP
At Springfield, N.J.—Par 71
Lower Course—6,621 yards
54-hole leaders

Leona Maguire	69-68-69—206	-7
Jenny Shin	69-72-66—207	-6
Stephanie Meadow	73-68-67—208	-5
Lee-Anne Pace	66-73-70—209	-4
Ruoning Yin	67-73-69—209	-4
Lauren Coughlin	75-67-68—210	-3
Jin Young Ko	72-69-69—210	-3
Mina Harigae	73-68-70—211	-2
Megan Khang	74-70-67—211	-2
Xiyu Lin	67-71-73—211	-2
Yuka Saso	69-73-69—211	-2
Celine Borge	69-69-74—212	-1
Celine Boutier	70-71-71—212	-1
Grace Kim	70-73-69—212	-1
Gabriela Ruffels	73-71-68—212	-1
Sarah Schmelzel	74-68-70—212	-1
Rose Zhang	70-74-68—212	-1
Ashleigh Buhai	73-73-67—213	E
Allisen Corpuz	70-71-72—213	E
Ayaka Furue	69-75-69—213	E
Brooke Henderson	67-74-72—213	E
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	71-73-69—213	E
Jeongeun Lee6	71-73-69—213	E
Anna Nordqvist	74-73-66—213	E
Alexa Pano	70-74-69—213	E
Na Rin An	75-70-69—214	+1
Carlota Ciganda	72-73-69—214	+1
Daniela Darquea	71-72-71—214	+1
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	75-70-69—214	+1

CHAMPIONS TOUR
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS OPEN
At Endicott, N.Y.—Par 72
En-Joie Golf Club—6,994 yards
36-hole leaders

Ernie Els	67-65—132	-12
Miguel Angel Jimenez	68-64—132	-12
Brett Quigley	68-64—132	-12
Joe Durant	64-69—133	-11
Padraig Harrington	69-66—135	-9
Thongchai Jaidee	69-66—135	-9
Tim Herron	68-68—136	-8
John Huston	69-67—136	-8
Dicky Pride	68-68—136	-8
Shane Bertsch	71-66—137	-7
Darren Clarke	68-69—137	-7
Richard Green	68-69—137	-7
Vijay Singh	68-69—137	-7
Kevin Sutherland	69-68—137	-7
Michael Allen	71-67—138	-6



David Banks Associated Press

BRANDON VAZQUEZ (19) celebrates his tying goal against Jamaica with U.S. teammate Cade Cowell (11) during the second half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup match Saturday night at Soldier Field in Chicago.

Vazquez's late score gives U.S. a tie

Goal in 88th minute averts disastrous loss to Jamaica in opening game of CONCACAF Gold Cup event.

UNITED STATES 1
JAMAICA 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Brandon Vazquez scored in the 88th minute, and the No. 13 United States gained a 1-1 draw against 63rd-ranked Jamaica on Saturday night to avoid what would have been the Americans' first loss in a CONCACAF Gold Cup opener.

Vazquez had entered the match six minutes earlier, tying him to the U.S. with his first competitive international appearance. Born in Chula Vista, the 24-year-old forward could have played for Mexico.

"It means everything," said Vazquez, who was overlooked for last year's World Cup roster. "To be able to score a goal in my cap tie is amazing."

Damion Lowe put the Reggae Boyz ahead with a 13th-minute goal. The defending champion U.S. came back when Jesús Ferreira's cross hit off defender Dexter Lembikisa to Vazquez, who scored with a right-foot shot from seven yards for his second international goal.

Lowe got his third goal in 53 international appearances, beating goalkeeper Matt Turner with a header from eight yards after Demarai Gray's free kick.

Lowe was played onside when Matt Miazga dropped back on the restart by Gray, an Everton winger who made his Reggae Boyz debut after switching affiliation from England.

Next up for the Americans is a Wednesday match in St. Louis with 139th-ranked St. Kitts and Nevis, which opens Sunday against No. 104 Trinidad and Tobago.

Turner, playing on his 29th birthday, was the only U.S. player who was a regular at last year's World Cup. He dived left to save a 29th-minute penalty kick by Leon Bailey, who put the rebound wide with his weaker right foot.

The penalty was awarded when Aidan Morris knocked down Kevon Lambert after a throw-in.

Jamaica goalkeeper Andre Blake deflected Jordan Morris' open shot in first-half stoppage time with his right arm, then blocked Cristian Roldan's 71st-minute effort with a leg.

Eight U.S. starters picked by interim coach B.J. Callaghan were from Major League Soccer.

Gregg Berhalter, whose contract expired in December and who was rehired June 16, was on hand to watch at Soldier Field and won't resume coaching until September.

Galaxy can't muster offense but get point

Bond forced to make only one save, but L.A.'s lack of scoring continues in road tie.

GALAXY 0
COLORADO 0

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. — William Yarbrough saved three shots for Colorado, Jonathan Bond stopped one for Los Angeles, and the Rapids and Galaxy played to a scoreless draw.

The struggles continue for the Rapids (2-9-8), who have yet to win at home and are off to the worst start in club history with only 14 points through 19 matches.

But the Galaxy (3-9-6) have been struggling too. The team has scored only 14 goals, the fewest in club history at this stage of a season. The Galaxy have gone 1-5-4 in their last 10 road matches. They scored three goals in their lone road victory — over Real Salt Lake — but only two total in the other nine matches.

Colorado is 7-1-3 in its last 11 matches with the Galaxy, including a 3-1 victory earlier this season. The seven wins tie the Rapids with the Seattle Sounders and FC Dallas for the most over the Galaxy in that span.

The Galaxy next travel to play the San Jose Earthquakes on Saturday.

The Rapids are on the road to play St. Louis on Saturday.

LAFC rallies but falls short

VANCOUVER 3
LAFC 2

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defender Ranko Veselinovic scored in the second minute, Ryan Gauld had a goal and two assists, and the Vancouver Whitecaps never trailed in a 3-2 victory over LAFC on Saturday at BMO Stadium.

Vancouver (6-5-7) beat the defending champions on the road for the first time in eighth tries. The Whitecaps had lost three straight on the road coming into the match and were 0-8-7 in their last 15 away from home.

Denis Bouanga scored unassisted in the 45th minute to pull LAFC (9-4-5) to within a goal at halftime.

Five minutes after Gauld's goal, LAFC's Carlos Vela took a pass from Mateusz Bogusz in the 68th minute and scored, but that ended the scoring.

SUMMARIES
GALAXY 0, RAPIDS 0

Galaxy	**0**	**0—0**
Colorado	**0**	**0—0**

FIRST HALF—Scoring: None.

SECOND HALF—Scoring: None.

GOALKEEPERS—Galaxy, Jonathan Bond, Jonathan Klinsmann; Colorado, William Yarbrough, Marko Ilic. **Yellow cards**—Bassett, Colorado, 74th; Rosenberry, Colorado, 76th; Puig, Galaxy, 80th.

Referee—Lukasz Szpala. Assistant referees—Peter Balciunas, Justin Howard, Jorge Gonzalez. 4th official—Jose Da Silva.

WHITECAPS 3, LAFC 2

Vancouver	**2**	**1—3**
LAFC	**1**	**1—2**

FIRST HALF—1. Vancouver, Veselinovic, 1 (Gauld), 2nd minute; 2. Vancouver, White, 7 (Gauld), 23rd; 3. LAFC, Bouanga, 11, 45th.

SECOND HALF—4. Vancouver, Gauld, 4, 63rd; 5. LAFC, Vela, 6 (Bogusz), 68th.

GOALKEEPERS—Vancouver, Yohei Takaoka, Thomas Hasal; LAFC, John McCarthy, Eldin Jakupovic.**Yellow cards**—Crisostomo, LAFC, 25th; Raposo, Vancouver, 31st; Vite, Vancouver, 85th; Hollingshead, LAFC, 86th; Martins, Vancouver, 90th+1. Referee—Jon Freemon.

MLS standings

Western Conference	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Saint Louis	10	7	2	32	37	24
LAFC	9	4	5	32	28	19
Seattle	8	7	5	29	24	18
Houston	8	8	3	27	24	25
San Jose	7	7	6	27	23	26
Real Salt Lake	7	7	6	27	25	31
FC Dallas	7	7	5	26	21	22
Austin	7	8	4	25	24	27
Vancouver	6	5	7	25	30	23
Portland	5	8	7	22	22	27
Kansas City	5	10	6	21	23	30
Minnesota	5	7	6	21	17	24
GALAXY	3	9	6	15	16	29
Colorado	2	9	8	14	14	27
Eastern Conference	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Cincinnati	13	2	4	43	30	19
New England	10	3	6	36	33	23
Nashville	10	5	5	35	28	16
Philadelphia	10	5	4	34	34	20
Columbus	9	6	4	31	38	26
Atlanta	7	5	8	29	37	35
Orlando City	7	5	7	28	25	22
Montréal	8	9	2	26	20	27
D.C. United	7	8	5	26	29	26
Charlotte	6	8	6	24	27	35
New York RB	5	6	8	23	17	18
Chicago	5	6	8	23	25	28
New York City	4	7	9	21	21	26
Toronto	3	7	10	19	18	26
Miami	5	13	0	15	17	28

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
at New England 2, Toronto 1
Montreal 0, at Charlotte 0
at New York Red Bulls 4, Atlanta 0
at Columbus 2, Nashville 0
at D.C. United 3, Cincinnati 0
at Philadelphia 4, Miami 0
Chicago 1, at Kansas City 0
at Austin 3, Houston 0
Minnesota 2, at Salt Lake City 2
GALAXY 0, at Colorado 0
Vancouver 3, at LAFC 2
Orlando 0, at Seattle 0
St. Louis 2, at San Jose 1
New York FC 1, at Portland 1

NEXT MATCHES
SATURDAY
Salt Lake at Toronto
Chicago at Orlando
New York City at Montreal
New York R.B. at Columbus
Austin at Miami
New England at Cincinnati
D.C. United at Nashville
Colorado at St. Louis
LAFC at Dallas
Portland at Minnesota
Vancouver at Kansas City
Houston at Seattle
GALAXY at San Jose

Los Angeles Times

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023 ■ LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

IRVIN RIVERA For The Times

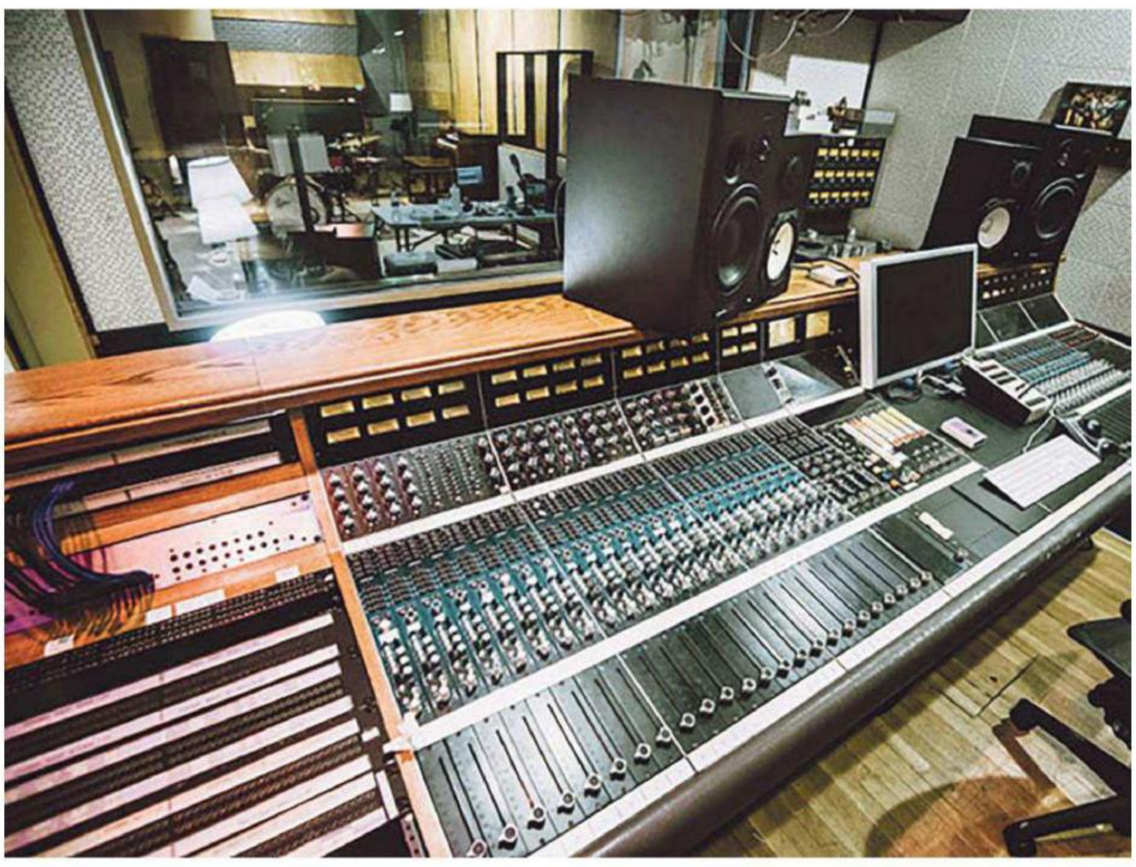
A MUSIC
STUDIO FOR
EVERY BUDGET
E2

'ELEMENTAL'
TRIBUTE
TO PARENTS
E4

LORRIE MOORE'S
FEVER DREAM
OF A NOVEL
E8

WHAT KIM PETRAS REALLY, REALLY WANTS

With trans rights under attack, the pop singer fights back with a debut album filled with bangers about sex. **E5**



Boulevard Recording

MIX IT UP AT SOCAL'S BEST STUDIOS

BY AUGUST BROWN, KENAN DRAUGHORNE AND STEVE APPLEFORD

Despite the increase in amateur and professional musicians recording songs, even whole albums, on their home equipment, Los Angeles and its outlying areas still boast the highest concentration of top-notch recording studios in the world, where the vibes are immaculate, the gear state-of-the art, the engineers savants and the ghosts of rock stars past inspirational. Here, you'll find a studio for every need and every budget, whether you're aspiring to make your first demo or your long-plotted change-of-musical-direction opus (with orchestra).

Dan Joeright Gatos Recording Studio

Steven Dewall

David Catching Rancho de la Luna

BOULEVARD RECORDING, clockwise from top, Gatos Trail, Rancho de la Luna and Valentine Recording Studios all have a distinctive feel that adds depth to recording experiences.

APOGEE STUDIO
Built by Bob Clearmountain, the legendary engineer-mixer-producer known for his work with Bob Marley, Bruce Springsteen and David Bowie, Apogee Studio is a modern recording facility and performance space. Clearmountain sits behind a vintage Neve 8068 console, imported from the historic Power Station Studios in Manhattan. Sharing a building with Apogee Electronics, the studio has 10,000 square feet of recording spaces, a small stage, a kitchen and lounge areas. Apogee is also a live venue used frequently by KCRW to record performances by special guests (from Tom Jones to Gary Clark Jr.) for the station's popular "Apogee Sessions" series. — Steve Appleford
(310) 584-9394
apogeedigital.com
1715 Berkeley St., Santa Monica

BOULEVARD RECORDING
In 2021, a fire almost gutted this room where Pink Floyd tracked for "The Wall," and where Steely Dan and Fleetwood Mac cut peak-career records. In the '90s, Bad Religion's Brett Gurewitz rechristened it Westbeach Recorders to lay down punk classics by Rancid, Sublime and Blink-182. But new owner Clay Blair put in the sweat to save it, with a reopening planned this summer. Blair has a NoHo mix room as well, but if you want that '70s magic (with an impressive collection of vintage gear), you can't beat the original. Pro tip: Ask for Tom Biller, Jon Brion's former in-house engineer and a Grammy winner behind Fiona Apple and Elliott Smith records. — August Brown
(323) 337-6911
boulevardrecording.com
6035 Hollywood Blvd., L.A.

CAPITOL STUDIOS
Beginning with its debut recording, 1965's "Frank Sinatra Conducts Tone Poems of Color," Capitol Studios has been the choice of leading artists for half a century. Recent years have included modern classics like Frank Ocean's "Blonde" and Taylor Swift's "Red (Taylor's Version)." The unusually roomy and elegant recording spaces rest beneath the world-famous Capitol Records tower in Hollywood, and have space enough for large orchestral ensembles with strings and horns. The two main studios, with a third for mixing, are set up with vintage Neve consoles, a dazzling collection of new and ancient mics, grand pianos and private lounge areas. Among the studio's most unique features are eight concrete echo chambers built 30 feet beneath the tower for capturing reverb, and used to great effect by Brian Wilson and generations of visionary artists. — S.A.
(323) 871-5001
capitolstudios.com
1750 Vine St., L.A.

CHALICE STUDIOS
Speaking with The Times last year, producer Hit-Boy, who has his own room at Chalice Studios, proclaimed that the building "has a certain energy to it." A brief list of some of the magic he's created here: Nipsey Hussle's "Racks in the Middle" (the final song released before Hussle's death); the entirety of Nas' Grammy-winning album "King's Disease"; and Big Sean's "Bezerk." Hit-Boy isn't the only one in love with Chalice; Compton rapper the Game is another studio mainstay, while Kendrick Lamar, J. Cole and Bruno Mars have also graced the microphones. — Kenan Draughorne
(323) 957-7100
chalicerecording.com
845 N. Highland Ave., L.A.

CONWAY RECORDING STUDIOS
Located near a busy intersection in Hollywood, Conway is a surprising idyllic getaway behind its walls, with a tropical garden and courtyard that seem far away from all city commotion. Since opening its doors in the mid-1970s, it has attracted a range of musical stars, including Green Day, Jay-Z, KISS and the Weeknd. It has Neve and SSL consoles, Pro Tools and other modern tech, concert pianos and a long list of dynamic, condenser and tube microphones. Tape machines are available for the analog-minded by request. — S.A.
(323) 463-2175
conwayrecording.com
5100 Melrose Ave., L.A.

EASTWEST STUDIOS
Calling itself "the world's premier recording facility," EastWest Studios has a rich history few can match, as the site of such classics as the Beach Boys' "Pet Sounds," Madonna's "Like a Prayer," Michael Jackson's "Thriller," and Frank and Nancy Sinatra's hit "Something Stupid." While its former sister studio next door, United Recording, ceased day-to-day operations in April, EastWest remains a draw for popular-music-making, with elegant private lounges, concierge services and an unsurpassed collection of new and vintage gear. — S.A.
(323) 957-6969
eastweststudios.com
6000 Sunset Blvd., L.A.

ELDORADO RECORDING STUDIOS
Originally located at Hollywood and Vine, Eldorado began as Johnny Otis' personal workshop in 1954, and it still enjoys a deep collection of gear dating back to that first decade. One coveted piece is a half-century-old Telefunken 251 condenser mic. After a major earthquake in 1987 and multiple relocations, the studio landed for good in downtown Burbank in 1996, where it's hosted sessions with Sigur Rós, Ben Harper, Alice in Chains and Alison Sudol. — S.A.
(818) 842-1855
eldoradorecording.com
150 E. Providencia Ave., Burbank

GATOS TRAIL
Ever since Gram Parsons first communed with his muse in Joshua Tree, rockers have gone east from L.A. in search of the unspoiled cosmos and fresh thinking. More recently, SZA is among the many who have stopped by this studio from owner Dan Joeright, which offers onsite housing (and an outdoor hot tub) for psychonautically inclined artists to truly immerse themselves in the expanse. — A.B.
(323) 899-8289
gatostrail.com
1733 Surrey Ave., Yucca Valley

GOLD-DIGGERS SOUND
Leon Bridges dug this place so much he themed a whole album around it. While most Angelenos pass through the lively downstairs bar (a favorite for tasteful disco DJs and live performances) or stay in the upstairs boutique hotel, you can also do like Bridges did and cut a whole LP around back. There are nine studios and a larger soundstage for you to work off your hangover from next door, and if you *really* like the vibes you can buy candles and beard oil that smell just like the place. — A.B.
(323) 546-0300
gold-diggers.com
5632 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A.

GREEN TEA STUDIOS
Founded in 2015, Green Tea Studios has become an all-encompassing hub for up-and-coming artists. Here, monitors, mics and mixing boards are only the beginning; the Green Tea Academy offers courses on music production, basics of the business and social media strategy, among other topics. The studio even hosts mini music festivals about every other month, platforming a bevy of artists in a sun-drenched, daytime setting. — K.D.
(847) 809-4805
greenteastudios.com
2114 Pico Blvd., L.A.

HAVEN RECORDING
Located within an imposing Arts District industrial complex, Haven Recording offers a full-slate recording studio experience at flexible costs. — K.D.
(213) 375-8576
havenrecording.com
1340 E. 6th St., L.A.

HENSON RECORDING STUDIOS
Henson is one of the top recording studios in the world, and the site of decades of historic sessions with the Rolling Stones, Burt Bacharach, Diana Ross, Guns N' Roses, and, famously, the 1985 all-star cast on charity single "We Are the World." Located on the cottage-style Hollywood studio lot built by silent auteur Charlie Chaplin (then amid acres of citrus trees), this first-class recording facility was created for A&M Records in the late 1960s. Owned since 2000 by the Jim Henson Company, home of the Muppets, the recording operation maintains four comfortable studio spaces of various sizes, each loaded with the finest vintage and modern gear for recording digitally or to tape. — S.A.
(323) 856-6680
hensonrecording.com
1416 N. La Brea Ave., L.A.

IGLOO MUSIC
With two fully equipped locations blocks from each other in Burbank (other location: 931 W. Olive Ave.), Igloo Music offers state-of-the-art recording and post-production in comfortable, tastefully designed rooms. Its clientele includes a full schedule of film and television productions (with multiple spaces for dubbing), but it has also been the location for albums by Santana, Chrissie Hynde, Rufus Wainwright, Jerry Cantrell and Engelbert Humperdinck. Founded by owner Gustavo "Gus" Borner, Igloo has four large control rooms, lounges, ample parking, car service and a remote recording option. — S.A.
(818) 558-7733
igloomusic.com
228 W. Palm Ave., Burbank

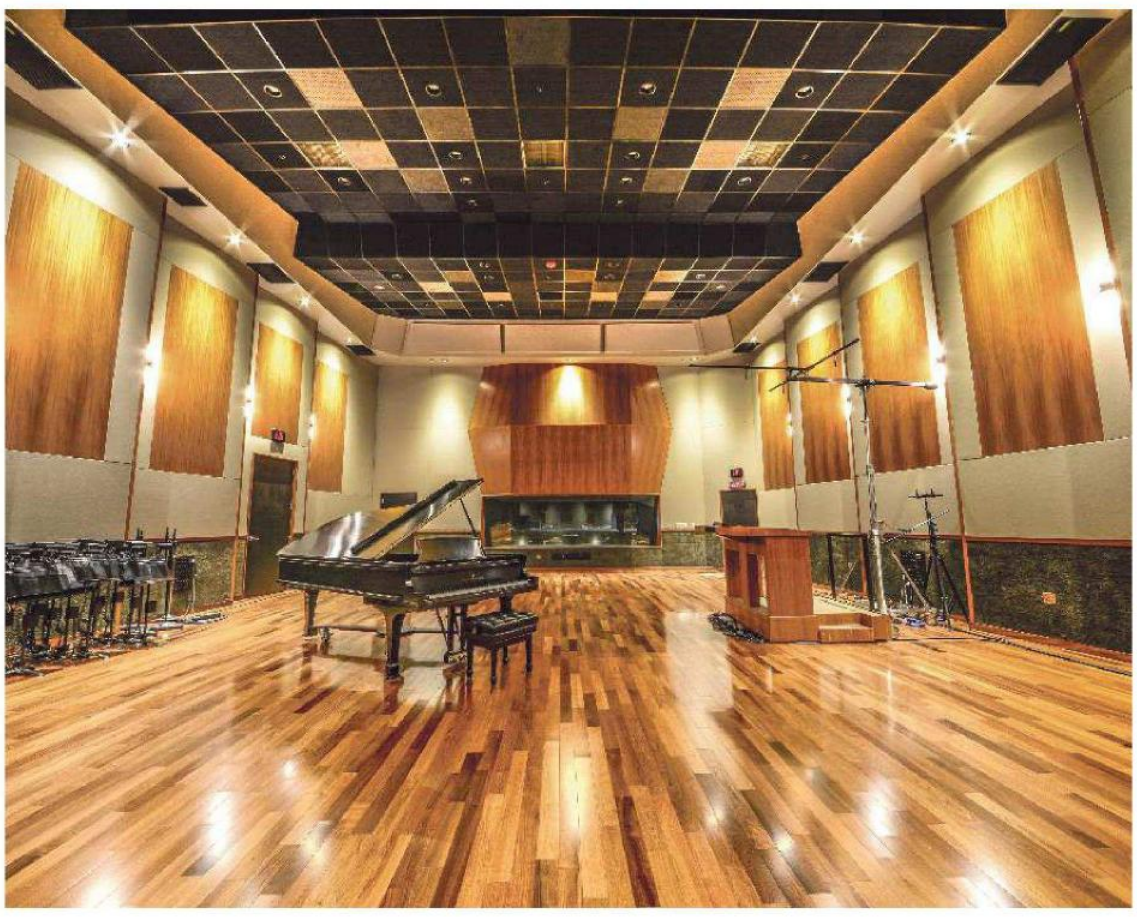
INFRASONIC
Under the stewardship of engineer Pete Lyman, Infrasonic has expanded into a bicoastal (well, L.A. and Nashville) complex where albums from Chris Stapleton, Brandi Carlile and Fall Out Boy have gotten their finishing touches. If you've knocked around the L.A. music scene for a while, you'll probably recognize Phil Feinman (of the late, great Bedrock.LA) and J. Clark (of Pretty Girls Make Graves) manning the boards in the West Coast facility. Plus, they can cut their own vinyl on site with a Neumann VMS 80 lathe. — A.B.
(323) 276-0477
infrasonicsound.com
5717 N. Figueroa St., L.A.

KINGSIZE
Engineer and producer Dave Trumfio built out the Gold-Diggers recording studio, but he made his reputation with this warren of studios in Northeast L.A. He's helmed and mixed records from Sia and Wilco, and if you ask really nicely, he might let you rent his home studio in Silver Lake (complete with a pool) for your project. — A.B.
(323) 533-0022
kingsizesoundlabs.com
3406 N. Eagle Rock Blvd., L.A.

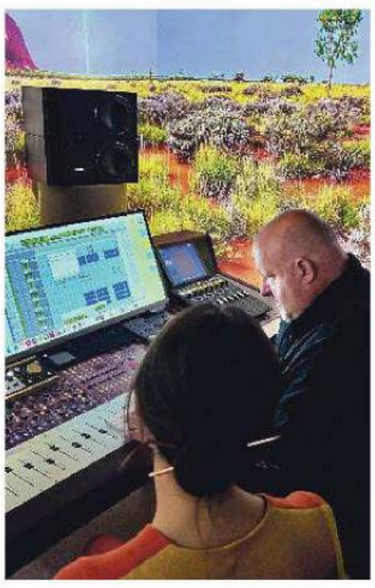
LEMONTREE
Whenever Billie Eilish is back in her home neighborhood of Highland Park, LemonTree is on a shortlist for places to work. The complex, owned by the gregarious Erik Nilsson, has 12 recording studios (a second Arts District outpost has seven) up for long-term lease or shorter-term use, and it's right in the middle of one of the most music-driven neighborhoods in L.A. — you can get your guitar fixed, record an album, sell your vinyl

MAGDA WOSINSKA Infrasonic Sound

ANDY CHOI Igloo Studios


ANDREW BUCKLEY

Total Access Recording


LemonTree Studios

The Watche

Kingsize Studios

TAKE A PEEK inside some of the best recording studios in the country, including Infrasonic, clockwise from top, Igloo Music, the Live Room at Silent Zoo, LemonTree's Atmos studio, KingSize, the Watche and Total Access Recording.

and spin it at a bar all on the same few blocks. — A.B.
(213) 207-6676
lemontreestudios.la
5717 N. Figueroa St., L.A.

MELROSE SOUND

Skrillex, Charlie Puth, Kehlani and Bebe Rexha have made this a busy stop in the Hollywood-area recording circuit. Pick from four color-themed rooms for the exact right vibe, or head to its Hollywood Hills outpost near the Bowl for a more sylvan atmosphere to cut tracks. — A.B.
(310) 948-0543
melrosesoundla.com
662 N. Heliotrope Drive, L.A.

MINT ROOM STUDIOS

Inside a pink, unassuming building along Glendale Avenue sits Mint Room Studios, a popular spot for L.A's hip-hop scene. Remble, Blueface, Kalan.Frfr are some of the many who have spit 16s into the studio's microphones, while out-of-state talents such as Bobby Shmurda, DDG and Desiigner have ventured through the doors as well. And it also serves as the home base for Treacherous Records, the independent label founded by Mint Room owner Mickey Aram. — K.D.
(818) 244-3333
mintroomstudios.org
902 S. Glendale Ave., Glendale

NIGHTBIRD RECORDING STUDIOS

Created in the basement of the Sunset Marquis, a hotel noted for embracing the culture of rock 'n' roll (not to mention the Morrison Hotel Gallery in the lobby), NightBird offers three cozy but well-equipped tracking rooms and a long list of mics and instruments. Founded by producer-musician Jed Leiber, the discreetly located facility has drawn major artists (Doja Cat, Post Malone, Sting, Aerosmith, etc.) for tracking, songwriting, demoing and press interviews, with all the available comforts of being attached to the exclusive four-star hotel upstairs. — S.A.
(310) 657-8405
nightbirdstudios.com
1200 Alta Loma Road, West Hollywood

NRG RECORDING STUDIOS

Founded in 1995 by producer-engineer Jay Baumgardner, this modern facility with exotic decor in the NoHo Arts District has hosted sessions with unknowns and major acts, including No Doubt, Fiona Apple, John Fogerty, Linkin Park and Esperanza Spalding. Behind a lobby lined with multiple platinum record awards, NRG offers two large tracking rooms, including a plush Moroccan-themed space, plugged into custom vintage Neve consoles. — S.A.
(818) 760-7841
nrgrecording.com
11128 Weddington St., North Hollywood

THE PIE

Local Natives, Zack de la Rocha and Anderson .Paak have worked out of this low-key (and surprisingly affordable) studio in leafy Pasadena. It houses a wide range of useful-for-L.A. options, from a big live room for tracking string sections and choirs to voiceover facilities, onsite mastering and reel-to-reel tape transfers. — A.B.
(669) 228-4818
thepiestudios.com
888 East Walnut St. #8, Pasadena

PIRATE STUDIOS

DJs come first at Pirate Studios, the global network of recording booths and practice rooms featuring state-of-the-art Pioneer equipment. Singers, musicians and podcasters are welcome too, however, as both L.A. locations (West Adams and Silver Lake) offer spaces to suit each need. And should your DJ career take you on the road, you can likely find another location to get some quick practice in — Pirate has dozens of locations in Europe and several in New York. — K.D.
(844) 274-7283
pirate.com/en
4713 W. Jefferson Blvd., L.A.

RANCHO DE LA LUNA

Among the most distinctive studios on this list, Rancho de la Luna achieved legendary status first through sessions with the high-octane desert rockers Kyuss and Queens of the Stone Age, before landing such clients as Iggy Pop, Foo Fighters, Daniel Lanois and Arctic Monkeys. Essentially a studio built in a residential home on the high desert in Joshua Tree, it was founded by Dave Catching and the late Fred Drake in 1993. With the studio sharing living space with a wildly diverse collection of equipment that Josh Homme has lovingly called "esoteric," the Rancho is an isolated workspace ready for Pro Tools or tape and moments of desert inspiration. — S.A.
ranchodelaluna.com
Hallee Road, Joshua Tree

RECORD PLANT

When Trippie Redd arrived in Los Angeles in 2016, the Record Plant quickly became his new home base: "I have a lot of fun making music in this room," he told The Times last September. Other notable clients include Rihanna, D'Angelo, Ariana Grande and Frank Ocean, who recorded material for his landmark "Channel Orange" in the building. Like Trippie, the Hollywood studio is not a true L.A. native; instead, engineer Gary Kellgren and businessman Chris Stone first started the Record Plant in New York in 1968 before opening a Los Angeles location the following year. (The New York location was closed by 1987.) — K.D.
(323) 993-9300
recordplant.com
1032 N. Sycamore Ave., L.A.

SHANGRI-LA MALIBU

This seaside studio is discussed in rarefied air among elite musicians; not just for its pristine recording quality, but for the onsite wisdom of resident guru and owner Rick Rubin. Originally converted from a ranch into a recording studio in the 1970s under the guidance of Bob Dylan, Shangri-La has hosted artists from Ed Sheeran to Adele to Kanye West to Red Hot Chili Peppers. Since Rubin purchased the studio in 2011, it's also become a TV darling in its own right, as the subject of Showtime's 2019 miniseries "Shangri-La" and the backdrop for GQ's "Epic Conversation" series. — K.D.
shangrilamalibu.com
30065 Morning View Drive, Malibu

SILENT ZOO

Once known as the Bridge Recording, this giant space has been a favorite of filmmakers and composers for generations. Films like "Straight Outta Compton," shows like "The Walking Dead" and video games like "Assassin's Creed" have all found their moods within this tracking room. It's open for bands and smaller projects as well, with a new broadcast rig for livestreaming. — A.B.
(818) 484-5222
silentzoostudios.com
736 Salem St., Glendale

STAGG STREET STUDIO

This studio in a nondescript industrial neighborhood of Van Nuys is a time-tested resource with a rich history that includes work with Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Joe Sample, Tori Amos, Leonard Cohen and Off. It's a modern digital studio plugged into a vintage API console, capturing the noisy or sublime within Stagg's 25-by-30-foot live room, and an equally spacious control room. The facility also houses a video stage (with green screen) and gated parking. — S.A.
(818) 989-0511
staggstreetstudio.com
15147 Stagg St., Van Nuys

SUNSET SOUND RECORDER

Sunset Sound was opened six decades ago by Tutti Camarata, onetime director of recording for Disney, and among its first projects were songs for "Mary Poppins" and "101 Dalmatians." But it soon evolved into an essential venue for groundbreaking rock, pop and soul, as the location of hit albums by Sly Stone, Van Halen, Weezer, Prince and more. While the studio is a fully up-to-date digital operation, it still offers the historic analog experience, with tape machines and other vintage gear used to make recordings in the classic rock era. And like Capitol Studios less than a mile away, Sunset Sound has kept its standalone echo chambers for recording natural reverb effects, like those used on Jim Morrison's torrid vocal on the Doors' 1967 smash "Light My Fire," channeled through the facility's historic Studio One chamber. — S.A.
(323) 469-1186
sunsetsound.com
6650 Sunset Blvd., L.A.

TOTAL ACCESS RECORDING

Fabled rockers have laid down vocals, guitar riffs and drum fills at Total Access Recording — Guns N' Roses, No Doubt and Foreigner, to name a few. Less than two miles from the Pacific Ocean, the studio has been in operation since 1980. — K.D.
(310) 376-0404
tarecording.com
612 Meyer Lane, Suite 18, Redondo Beach

TRACK 9 STUDIOS

For years, L.A.'s underground has fortified their skills at Track 9, the Torrance studio owned by producer-engineer Bigg Boo. 1TakeJay, Remble, Drakeo the Ruler, 03 Greedo and more have recorded at Track 9, often rapping over beats produced by Bigg Boo himself. And of course, the studio is always open for the next aspiring rapper looking to break out of Los Angeles. — K.D.
(310) 505-7203
track9studios.net
1327 Cabrillo Ave., Torrance

TRUTH STUDIOS

Great artists have made some of their greatest work at Truth Studios — TDE's star songstress SZA is one such artist, after recording a verse for her song "Doves in the Wind" here. Truth Studios is owned by producer-engineer Nick Breton, who recorded artists out of his L.A. studio apartment for over three years before securing the Stanley Avenue building. Aside from SZA, friends of the studio include Slowthai, Smino, Clairo and many more. — K.D.
(435) 901-1131
truthstudios.com
310 N. Stanley Ave., L.A.

THE VILLAGE

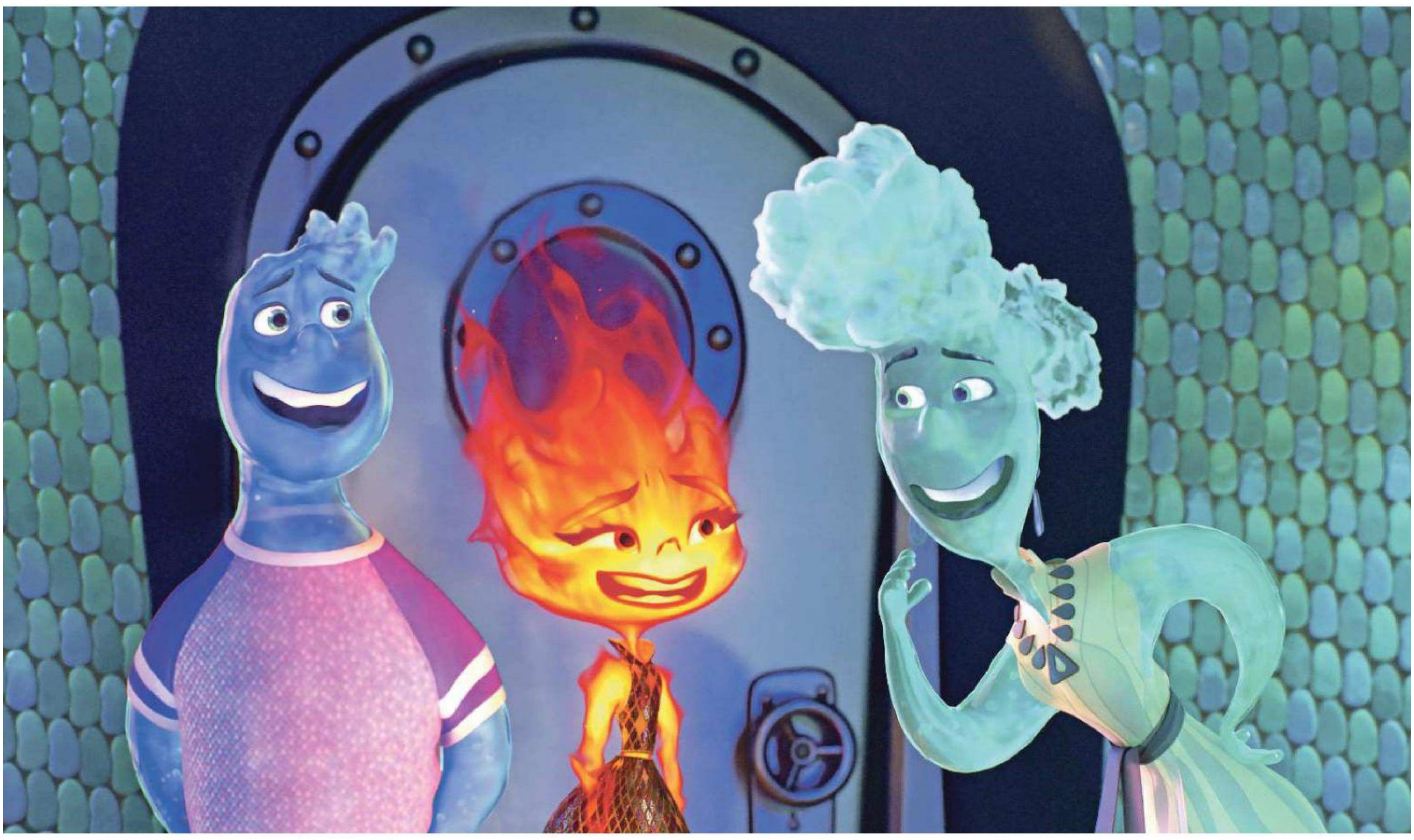
Built in a former Masonic Temple, the Village was made into a recording studio in 1968 by Geordie Hormel, and it remains one of the top facilities in the world. Just inside the front door is a long hallway lined with multiple platinum and gold album awards that chronicles a history recording the biggest names in popular music. Among the hits made there was Steely Dan's 1977 album "Aja," still praised far and wide as an astonishing recording achievement. The 22,000-square-foot multistory building offers three main live rooms, mostly using Neve consoles, plus a stage area for recording larger groups. From the outside, the century-old brick building is also recognizable for a large "Isle of California" mural that overlooks the parking lot with a sunny apocalyptic scene of a freeway collapsing into the Pacific Ocean. — S.A.
(310) 478-8227
villagestudios.com
1616 Butler Ave., L.A.

VALENTINE RECORDING STUDIOS

Valentine Recording Studios is a time capsule to an earlier analog era, with pristine Midcentury Modern decor and vintage equipment dating back to its opening in 1963 and a 1975 remodel. Named for its late founder, recording engineer Jimmy Valentine, the two studio spaces have hosted sessions by Bing Crosby and the Beach Boys in their first era (before closing in 1979), then drew the likes of Haim, Black Keys and Eagles of Death Metal after reopening in 2015. Valentine was sealed off for decades, and left largely untouched, leaving its elegant wood paneling, plush carpeting, custom consoles and ancient tape machines ready for rediscovery by a new generation. — S.A.
(818) 308-6609
valentinerecordingstudios.com
5330 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Valley Village

THE WATCHE

The Watche ended last year with a bang, hosting Brandy's very first writing camp, where a number of singers, writers and producers — including Ari Lennox and Timbaland — came together to help create material for the R&B icon's forthcoming project. The studio has been a North Hollywood go-to since 2010, having welcomed John Mayer, Youngboy Never Broke Again and Dave East, among others. — K.D.
(310) 505-7203
neighborhoodwatche.com
11222 Weddington St., North Hollywood



Pixar

COMMENTARY

'ELEMENTAL' SALUTES PARENTS

PIXAR LIGHTS A FIRE UNDER MOVIEGOERS TO SAY THANK YOU TO MOM AND DAD BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

BY TRACY BROWN

HOW DO YOU CONVEY how thankful you are for everything your parents have done for you? ¶ That's one of the key dilemmas Ember (voiced by Leah Lewis) has to navigate in Pixar's "Elemental," out now in theaters (although box office reports suggest audiences may be waiting for its arrival on Disney+). A young fire woman who grew up in the shop her parents built after leaving their homeland, Ember has always assumed she would take over the business so her father can finally retire. ¶ At least, that's what she always dreamed. But after a chance encounter with Wade (Mamoudou Athie) — a water guy who's very in tune with his emotions — she's forced to realize that she's never taken the time to really be honest with herself, because it's a luxury she never thought she had. Ember's focus has always been on being a "good daughter" to her parents who left everything and everyone they knew behind to seek better opportunities in a strange new land.

It's a familiar dynamic for those with immigrant parents, but Ember's story is relatable to anybody who grew up knowing their parents worked hard and made sacrifices just to give their kids a shot.

For director Peter Sohn, "Elemental" is a deeply personal story. While he can trace his inspiration for the animated movie's whimsical premise — different elements living as neighbors — to the periodic table he first saw in science class, the heart of Ember's story came from Sohn's experiences as a child born and raised in New York's Bronx to Korean immigrant parents, as well as his interracial marriage.

During a recent video call, Sohn recounted the time he was on stage waiting to make remarks at an event celebrating Pixar (his feature directorial debut, "The Good Dinosaur," was also for the studio). Seeing his family's faces in the audience, he was suddenly struck by how thankful he was, so he scrapped his planned speech and talked about them instead.

"It got very emotional," said Sohn. "I cried up there. It was embarrassing. Someone in the background was like, 'You better thank them!' I came back to Pixar with that story and some of the folks here said, 'Hey, that's your next film.' "

That feeling of gratitude permeates "Elemental."

Sharing intimate family stories isn't easy. Even Sohn admitted he had difficulty being "so vulnerable about personal stuff" and that it was a couple of years into the production before he saw these elements as more than just ingredients for the movie, and really leaned in.

Adding to that is the loss Sohn experienced in the years it took to make "Elemental." Sohn's father died early during the production, and his mother died a few years later. He wanted to honor them with this movie, he said, but pouring his grief into his work took the film to a much darker place than he intended.

KATE GREEN Getty Images for Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures U.K.

PIXAR'S "Elemental" was partly inspired by director Peter Sohn's upbringing in the Bronx and his Korean immigrant parents, both of whom died during film production.

"I had to wrestle with a lot of these issues of grief," said Sohn. He said he "grab[bed] on to this guiding light, this North Star of just wanting to thank the people in our lives that have sacrificed or taken risks for us. It became this saddle that I held on to."

It's these tiny flecks of grief that tinge "Elemental's" message that really resonated with me as a viewer — and in a different way than recent films about the relationships between Asian mothers and their daughters.

Ember struggles with the idea of being honest with her family because she doesn't want to let them down. What goes unmentioned is that when you are keenly aware you're an outsider — in Ember's case, a fire woman living in a world not built for fire people — it's that much harder to risk any disapproval from those who have provided the one place where you feel you do belong.

Wade, the water guy, whose father died before the events of the movie, reminds Ember that her parents won't be around forever and that it's important to be honest with them while she can.

My father died when I was 22 while I was off chasing what I thought were my dreams. Until then, I was lucky enough that I never really had to consider my parents' mortality and took for granted that they would be around forever. I was nowhere near mature enough to have really considered who my dad was outside of being my dad.

As the years passed, the more I've thought about the conversations we didn't have and the sides of me he'd never see. We spent a lot of time together, but since I inherited his tendency to express love through action (he always found a way to let me pursue any interest I expressed), I sometimes wonder if that was enough.

More than any lingering ache I feel that my dad never really got a chance to know the real me — I didn't even know the real me at 22 — is the fear that he died without really hearing my thanks. Did I say it loud enough, if I didn't always use my words?

How do you convey how appreciative you are for everything your father has done for you when he's no longer around for you to tell him?

"Elemental" offers one answer. After Ember finally tells her father about her new dream of pursuing the arts, she realizes that all her parents have really wanted for her is to be able to pursue happiness, even if it's something (or with someone) they hadn't ever considered before.

Many of us get to chase ambitions that our parents never had the luxury of imagining — such as making a living watching and writing about animated movies. One way to show them our thanks might be to keep dreaming big. But the film's biggest takeaway is to always say thank you while you can.

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LOVE GETS A ROOM
4:30 PM
SQUARING THE CIRCLE
7:00 PM
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R
1:30 7:30
THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH
1:00 PM
NOBODY'S HERO
4:00 PM

MONICA
1332 Second Street Santa Monica
ASTEROID CITY PG-13
1:20 4:20 7:20
HERE. IS. BETTER.
1:30 4:30 7:10
THE LAST RIDER PG-13
1:20 4:00 7:00
MAXIMUM TRUTH R
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30
PAST LIVES PG-13
1:00 4:10 7:10
TAYLOR MAC'S 24-DECADE HISTORY OF POPULAR MUSIC
1:10 4:00 7:00

TOWN CENTER
17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
ASTEROID CITY PG-13
1:30 4:30 7:20
DESPERATE SOULS, DARK CITY AND THE LEGEND OF MIDNIGHT COWBOY
1:20 7:00
THE LAST RIDER PG-13
1:10 4:00 7:10
LOVE GETS A ROOM
4:20 PM
ABOUT MY FATHER PG-13
1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R
5:20 PM
CLEAN
1:00 3:10 7:30

NEWHALL
22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
ASTEROID CITY PG-13
10:10 1:30 4:30 7:30
NO HARD FEELINGS R
1:20 4:20 7:20
ELEMENTAL PG
10:20 1:20 4:15 7:20
THE FLASH PG-13
10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00
DALÍLAND
10:30 AM
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG
10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG
1:10 4:10 7:10
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R
10:30 AM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13
1:40 6:30

GLENDALE
207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
ASTEROID CITY PG-13
1:30 4:30 7:30
THE FLASH PG-13
1:00 3:55 6:50
BLUE JEAN
4:20 PM
SCARLET
1:20 7:10
PAST LIVES PG-13
1:10 4:10 7:20
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG
12:55 4:00 7:00

NoHo 7
5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
ASTEROID CITY PG-13
1:30 4:20 7:30
KINGS OF L.A.
1:20 4:10 7:20
NO HARD FEELINGS R
1:10 4:20 7:20
THE BLACKENING R
1:30 4:30 7:30
ELEMENTAL PG
1:10 4:00 7:10
THE FLASH PG-13
1:00 4:00 7:00
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG
1:00 4:10 7:00

CLAREMONT
450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
ASTEROID CITY PG-13
1:30 4:20 7:30
NO HARD FEELINGS R
1:20 4:30 7:20
ELEMENTAL PG
1:10 4:15 7:10
THE FLASH PG-13
1:00 4:00 7:00
DALÍLAND
10:10 AM
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG
1:00 4:05 7:10
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R
10:30 AM
THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH
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KIM PETRAS HAS IT ALL

Trans lives are under attack, but the 'I Don't Want It at All' singer is living proudly and impressing her pop music colleagues

MIKAEL WOOD
POP MUSIC CRITIC

IRVIN RIVERA For The Times

KIM PETRAS was already an old friend and collaborator of Paris Hilton's when the pop singer put in a surprise appearance at Hilton's first-ever concert this month at the Fonda Theatre in Hollywood. ¶ In 2017, Hilton made a cameo in the music video for Petras' breakout single, "I Don't Want It at All," in which Petras sings about happily auditioning for a sugar daddy; four years later, Petras sang at Hilton's wedding to investor Carter Reum in a performance captured for posterity as part of Hilton's reality TV show "Paris in Love." ¶ But as she sat backstage at the Fonda before joining the world's most famous heiress for a romp through Hilton's "Stars Are Blind" — a glittery early-2000s camp classic that had the two twirling for an audience of gay men celebrating Pride month — Petras, 30, still couldn't quite believe that she'd gotten close with the woman she idolized as a transgender girl growing up in Germany. (The "I Don't Want It at All" video opens with Petras kneeling at a makeshift shrine to Hilton.) ¶ "I've shown Paris pictures of me standing in front of Paris Hilton posters in my bedroom as a kid," Petras said. " 'Stars Are Blind' means so much to me. It reminds me of when I was finding myself." ¶ That Hilton would call on Petras to help close her live show was just one indication of how far Petras has come since those searching childhood days in a small suburb of Cologne. Last fall, her and Sam Smith's slithering club jam "Unholy" reached No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100, making her the first openly trans person (and Smith the first openly nonbinary person) to top the music industry's preeminent singles chart. In February, no less an icon than Madonna introduced a fiery, red-leather-bedecked rendition of "Unholy" at the Grammy Awards, where Petras and Smith went on to win the award for pop duo/group performance. And last month Petras appeared in a gold bikini on the cover of Sports Illustrated's annual swimsuit issue, a gig that involved a trip on a private plane with the magazine's other models, including 81-year-old Martha Stewart.

"It felt like Miss Congeniality in the best way possible," the singer recalled with a laugh.

Now Petras is releasing her major-label debut album, "Feed the Beast." Just out on Republic Records, it showcases her dramatic singing voice and her flair for snappy phrases and sharp yet gleaming hooks; it also emphasizes her deep knowledge of pop history, as in "Alone," a duet with Nicki Minaj that interpolates the 1999 dance hit "Better Off Alone" by the Dutch trance act Alice Deejay. The LP is clearly meant to make Petras a major Top 40 presence after years of hard work in the trenches.

"I admire Kim for being unapologetically herself, and I think in this industry that takes you further than projecting something you're not," said Hilton, who added that Petras "has definitely paved the way for other artists and has contributed so much to music already."

Yet "Feed the Beast" also finds Petras at the center of a web of interconnected controversies, some of her own making and some not. One of her primary creative partners on the album is Dr. Luke, the hit-making songwriter and producer whom Kesha accused of sexual assault in 2014. (In addition to Kesha's "Tik Tok," Dr. Luke's many smashes include Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl," Kelly Clarkson's "Since U Been Gone" and Miley Cyrus' "Party in the U.S.A.") Dr. Luke, born Lukasz Gottwald, denied Kesha's allegations, and in 2016 a judge dismissed the singer's legal claims. To some listeners, though, he remains a toxic figure whose alleged misdeeds impute a moral if not a commercial stain on artists who continue to work with him.

Petras has also been criticized by fans who say that "Unholy" — in which Smith and Petras address a straight cisgender man caught cheating on his wife — represents something of a lost opportunity to center the stories of queer people.

Asked to respond to that critique, Petras framed "Unholy" as a product of her lived experience. "As a trans girl, I've often been taken as the side chick, and I don't want to be that," she said in a cramped dressing room at the Fonda. Dressed in a filmy purple dress, two black ribbons tied into her blond hair, she sipped an energy drink through a straw between puffs from a banana-yellow vape pen. "So for me and Sam, it's like we're the allies of girls whose guys do s— behind their backs. To men who cheat, we're like, 'We'll f— tell.' "

Said Smith in an email: "When she came into the studio, all I wanted was for Kim to do Kim and really put her stamp on the track."

Whatever the viewpoint of the song, the success of "Unholy" has brought attention to Petras' identity at a moment of widening anti-trans rhetoric and legislation. This year Republican lawmakers have passed numerous bills restricting young people's access to gender-affirming care, while conservative activists recently called for a boycott of Bud Light after trans influencer Dylan Mulvaney posted a piece of sponsored content about the beer.

ASTRIDA VALIGORSKY Getty Images

WITH A new album and a tour, Kim Petras builds on the energy of events like a recent Governors Ball in New York.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) targeted Petras specifically with a tweet about her and Smith's Grammys performance ("This…is…evil," he wrote); ditto Megyn Kelly, the former Fox News personality, who said on her podcast that Petras' Sports Illustrated cover defied the purpose of the swimsuit issue, which is for "15-year-old boys to spend some alone time with it in the bathroom."

What does Petras make of comments like that? "It bounces off me at this point," she said, a bit fidgety but with no shortage of eye contact. "I've been called crazy by doctors since I was 10 years old — like, 'You will always be a man!' So that whole mindset, it's always been this way."

The difference now, she said, is that "transgenderism is being used as this sensationalist thing to distract from everything that's messed up in this country. It's like a clown show they're making out of being trans. But I don't think that people actually care that much, to be honest."

Prof. Karen Tongson, chair of the department of gender and sexuality studies at USC, said it shouldn't come as a surprise that Petras' ascent has come amid such attacks on the trans community. "Mainstream exposure for minoritized communities is often accompanied by resentment-fueled backlash," she said, pointing out that Laverne Cox's appearance on the cover of Time magazine in 2014 preceded an uptick in violence against trans women of color. "With greater visibility comes greater vulnerability," Tongson added.

In her acceptance speech at the Grammys, Petras spoke movingly about her mother's support when she was young, though she now has regrets about taking part in a German documentary about her transition. "It was just deadnaming and showing me topless, underage and on hormones — horrible s—," she said.

Petras grew up obsessed with pop music, particularly Madonna, whom she described as "the first person where in her music she was so masculine at some points and so feminine at some points. And the music was so much about your mind and how that's all that matters."

She began writing songs as a teenager and sang covers on YouTube; at 19 she came to Los Angeles at the invitation of a producer who let her sleep on a couch in his garage in Redondo Beach. Eventually she met Dr. Luke, whose once-surging career had stalled in the wake of Kesha's accusations and who found in Petras a talented up-and-comer without a huge number of options.

Having been criticized in the past for seeming to doubt Kesha, Petras these days avoids talking in interviews about Luke, who beyond his work on "Feed the Beast" has produced songs recently for Minaj, Doja Cat and Lil Durk, among others. But Petras allowed that she's "learned a lot about songwriting from working with Luke" — that "there's a very specific science to music that I had no idea of when I was starting out."

Together the two created a string of early singles — including "I Don't Want It at All," a clever riff on Madonna's "Material Girl," and the ecstatically lovesick "Heart to Break" — that attracted a devoted fan base of queer folks and pop aesthetes. Since then, Petras has toyed with variety of styles and attitudes, alternately pushing her music toward steamy R&B, throbbing EDM and the fractured, highly digitized sound of hyperpop. (In her Grammys speech, Petras thanked Sophie, the influential hyperpop musician who died in 2021.)

"Kim creates a kind of fantasy world in her music," said Sarah Hudson, a songwriter who's worked with Dua Lipa and Justin Bieber and who co-wrote the wistful "Castle in the Sky" on "Feed the Beast." "It's so fun and colorful but so touching at the same time."

Last year, Petras released an EP called "Slut Pop" of ultra-raunchy tunes including "Throat Goat," about … well, you can figure it out. "I love songs about sex," she said. "It's one of the best topics to ever exist. Like, why wouldn't you want to write a song about that?" She added that she sees a political dimension to "Slut Pop," which came out shortly after OnlyFans said it would ban pornography (a decision the internet platform later reversed).

"It's very common in the trans realm that a lot of the dolls have no choice but to do sex work to afford their transition," Petras said. "Had my parents kicked me out, which happens to a lot of trans kids, that probably would have been my way. And I don't see anything bad with that. So I just wanted to make songs for those girls who need them to not feel ashamed. Me and my friends pride ourselves on being sluts. I think everyone should."

Petras' sex positivity is intertwined with a complicated body image. "I have dysmorphia — I've always had it," she said. "There's days when I look in the mirror and hate everything about myself, which is why I'm in therapy. Onstage it usually goes away completely and I feel incredible. But photo shoots, especially where it's a more natural look and I'm not in a crazy costume, that can be hard." Does she like the Sports Illustrated photo? "I love it," she said. "Being in a swimsuit is not the easiest thing for me, but they made me feel like I belonged on the cover."

Petras co-wrote every song on "Feed the Beast," a fact she said she wants people to know. "I play with this image of being a brat who gets everything handed to her, but it's not like I go in the studio and someone cooks me a song," she said. "I went in with Max Martin, and Max Martin will help you and give you his opinion," she continued, referring to the veteran Swedish writer-producer. (Other studio collaborators on the LP include Cirkut, Rami Yacoub, Ian Kirkpatrick and the Monsters & Strangerz.) "But you're still throwing s— out to come up with something together."

Hudson said Petras "gets on the mic and it's like a million ideas come out that you can pull from." According to Smith, the singer "freestyled the entire verse [of 'Unholy'] and just completely nailed it."

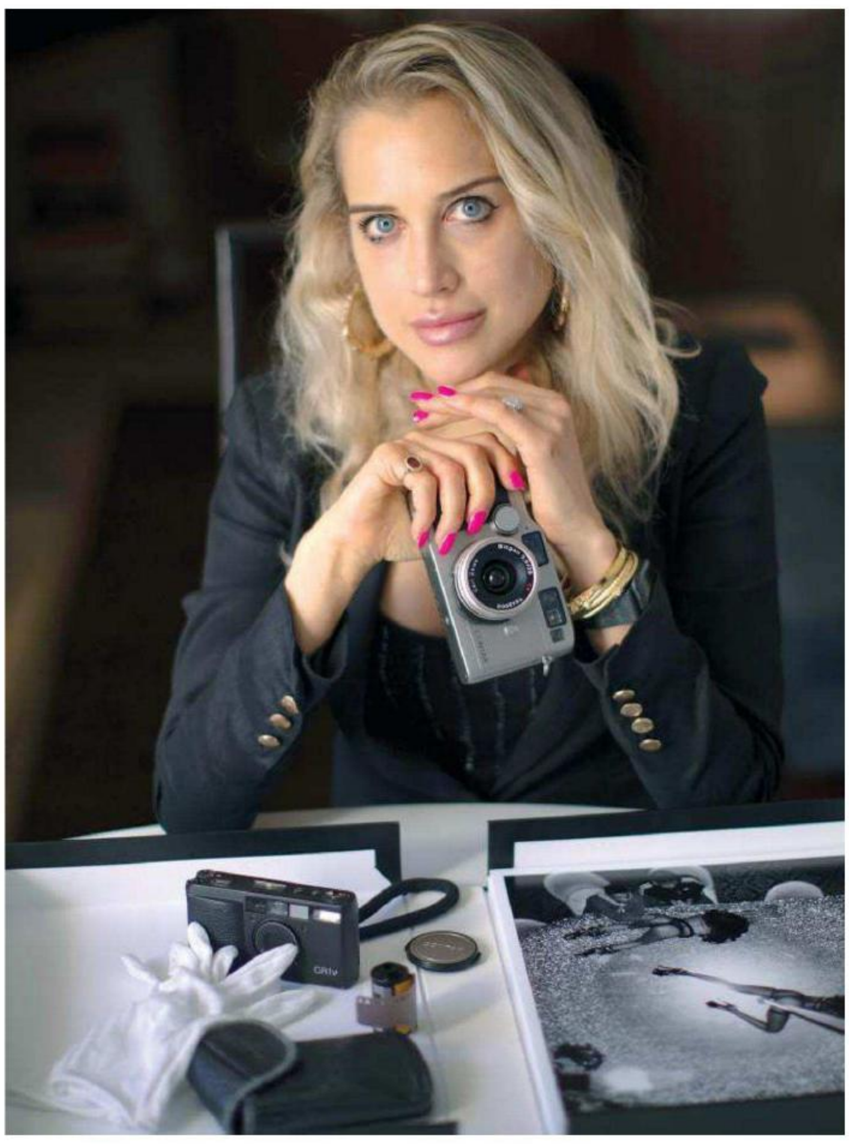
Petras' pop-star life doesn't leave much time for dating. "But dating is hard in general for a trans girl," she said. "Most apps don't even have the category, so you have to put it in your bio so that people know, because that's how you get killed if you don't clarify it." For now she's happily single, living with her three dogs: Schnitzel, Karl and Matilda.

This fall she'll tour behind her album, with a Nov. 1 stop scheduled at Inglewood's YouTube Theater. Among her ambitions for the year ahead is to work with Lana Del Rey, whom she calls "one of the greatest songwriters ever." She also wants to prove wrong the naysayers who told her earlier in her career that she made "niche music for gay clubs," as though that were a bad thing. "I'm like, 'Gay club music is the greatest music there is, because gay people actually care about music,' " she said. "And, you know, most straight clubs are the most awful experience I've ever had in my life. I'd rather die than listen to that music."

What's a good example of a terrible straight club song?

"Oh, my God, I can't answer that," she said, laughing. "That's very dangerous."

NNEOMA AJIWE



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

ADRIENNE RAQUEL, left, and Elizabeth Waterman have published books documenting the strip-club scene in various cities.

ELEVATED PORTRAITS OF EXOTIC DANCERS

ART PHOTOGRAPHERS ADRIENNE RAQUEL AND ELIZABETH WATERMAN COMPARE NOTES ON THE INFLUENCE OF STRIP CLUBS AND THE POWER OF BLACK BEAUTY

BY SONAIYA KELLEY

WHEN PHOTOGRAPHER and creative director Adrienne Raquel set out to document strippers, the Houston native set her lens on the city's famed Club Onyx. ¶ The intention of photographing the upscale Black club (shot to look "like a 1990s Hype Williams video") was to "grant the chance for these performers to be as elevated as the culture they influence." ¶ The photos were shown in Raquel's first solo exhibition, at New York's Fotografiska in 2021, and have now been compiled into the book "ONYX," published by Damiani. ¶ "ONYX" joins a tradition of photo books that includes Susan Meiselas' "Carnival Strippers" (1976), Bronwen Parker-Rhodes and Emily Dinsdale's "Wanting You to Want Me" (2022) and Elizabeth Waterman's "Moneygame: Where Women Rule the Stage" (2021), all of which provide a respectful, female perspective on a $7.6-billion industry that is often stigmatized and marginalized. ¶ "What separates the dancers in a strip club from other performance artists?" asks Nandi Howard in the book's foreword. "… The performers on these stages continue to serve as a blueprint for popular culture and artists across a multitude of industries, while their art form is largely disregarded." ¶ On the occasion of "ONYX's" publication, Raquel sat down with Waterman, whose "Moneygame" was shot at dozens of clubs across Los Angeles and three other cities, for a conversation, edited for length and clarity, on how strip clubs vary across the country and how the dancers feel about their cultural influence.

Waterman: The first thing I noticed when I was looking at your work is the aesthetic: beautiful, glossy, magazine editorial [style]. One thing that I'm going to take a note from is you got in close. What did you like about coming in tight like that?

Raquel: Prior to 2016 I would take still-lifes and architectural and scenic photos, all of which — you focus in on the details. I just recently shifted my focus toward photographing people. Traditionally when we think of strip clubs, it's not a quiet place, it's lively. You've got the music booming, the bass going, money flying, the girls, alcohol, hookah smoke. So with these images, you can really focus on the woman, which was the goal for this.

Waterman: I loved it because it wasn't sexualized, and you and I had that in common. We're looking at these women with different eyes than a man, but these are sensual moments because they're so close.

I've had mixed reactions from dancers about their likeness being borrowed in popular culture. Some of them say, "It's great that strippers are glorified in the media in shows like 'P-Valley' and with Cardi B and FKA twigs and all these people who are doing pole dancing. But we're still looked down upon when we're the generators of this image." Did you get any feedback from the dancers about what that's like for them?

Raquel: The dancers were more than happy to be part of the project. No one objected. Films like "Hustlers" and hip-hop artists like Cardi B and City Girls depict sex work and stripping in such a glamorous light. Whereas when you actually go inside these clubs, you see that it's not easy. I made it very clear — when I was getting consent — how they would be shown. Most of the girls that I approached were like, "Hell yeah, let's do it."

In the South, strippers are celebrated in many ways. I don't know how many friends of friends I have who are strippers. And I think that it doesn't hold the same negative regard that it does in other places.

Waterman: The South was the one place I really didn't go and hearing you talk about it makes me really want to. I definitely felt the urban clubs I went to in other cities had more of a celebratory vibe. They were the most fun. I'm thinking specifically of G5ive in Miami, Crazy Girls in Los Angeles, they were so much fun. And the women were these celebrated performers, they were superstars.

Raquel: Absolutely. Within the South, specifically Miami, Atlanta, Houston, even Dallas, some of the girls that work in these clubs, they're like celebrities.

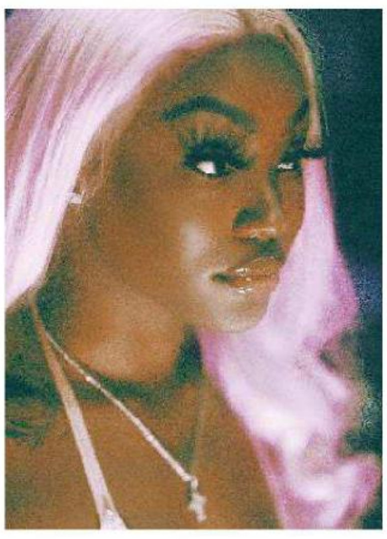
Waterman: There were girls at G5ive in Miami that had a million followers on Instagram.

Raquel: Houston is known for its music culture, food and the club scene. And being in the club is not just for men. When I got the inspiration to go to Onyx, I went with my mom and my aunt. People go there for birthday parties, baby showers, bachelorette parties.

Waterman: I feel about 98% of the feedback I got from sex workers about the book was positive. And then I got maybe a couple of people that said, 'You shouldn't be making money off of the book.' I feel like strippers and sex workers are so sensitive to people getting one over on them, because they've been gotten over on a lot. Did you ever come across that sensitivity?

Raquel: No, I did not. I was very forthcoming with the women I photographed for this project. I was very genuine in my approach, we had this sort of unspoken bond. The book is an extension of an exhibition at Fotografiska where on the opening night, the girls flew to New York. I paid for their hotels. I wanted them to be there personally.

ADRIENNE RAQUEL



ADRIENNE RAQUEL

"BLUE BILLS," above, and "ViXxen," left, from Adrienne Raquel's photo book, which looks inside Houston's Club Onyx.

I received a lot of messages from people who took their families, like: "Thank you so much for doing this, my grandmother saw this and she is usually against everything but she thought it was beautiful." Ultimately that was the goal, to shift people's perceptions of what exotic dancers and the women that work in these spaces represent.

Waterman: My favorite pictures in the book were the portraits in the locker rooms. Was there anything about those moments that was distinct?

Raquel: So the entire series is broken down into three categories: the up-close, detailed, stylized [shots of] what the women were wearing; these portraits that are more in the beauty realm of things; and then these locker room shots, which … are probably some of the most intimate. I photographed almost 50 to 60 girls. I had thousands of images. I basically selected photos of the women that I bonded with the most.

Waterman: I got the best images from the dancers where I invested the most time in them and we had moments that were really just the two of us. The locker room was my favorite place. Did you encounter any backlash from the patrons of the club?

Raquel: I didn't really encounter any backlash from any men and I purposely shot this series with no men included. I just wanted to empower and focus on the women. I feel like the entire nature of the series would have been completely changed if I had included the men. But what I also found surprising about the club is that there were so many women there who were either showing love to their homegirls or throwing money because they have it and they just wanted to give it to another woman.

Waterman: What year was that shot in again?

Raquel: I shot that during the pandemic.

Waterman: It's really an homage to how fabulous Black clubs are. I have noticed, maybe since Black Lives Matter, some of the whiter clubs have more Black dancers, thicker women now. I was at Sapphire Vegas recently. Usually it's pretty white. I feel like the Black women at Sapphire used to be white-ified. But do you see ways in which Black clubs are influencing culture at large?

Raquel: I think that's dependent on the city, but Black culture, Black people, Black women in general, influence the world. I mean, if you think about the amount of women who have been getting their butts done or their lips done — that's derived from Black women. That comes from Black beauty. Girls who are getting their nails done, they're getting [intricate] designs, that's Black [culture and aesthetics].

Waterman: I don't think that credit is very often given.

Raquel: It's not. And I think when it comes down to beauty, personality, style, attitude, the way we move, the way we talk … most women have a certain je ne sais quoi about them but … I've been to strip clubs in L.A., I've been to strip clubs in New York. I've been to the ones in the South. And when it comes to sex and sexuality, Black women are still very much desired.

Waterman: Some of the first clubs I went to were in the Bronx. It was my first real experience with a Black club and they were my favorites. I suppose it was because the women were really welcoming and I loved the fashion. Oh, my God, some of the nails I saw in Miami, like $200 manicures, gems up the wazoo, probably 4 inches long. They were so unabashedly sexual.

Raquel: It's such a multilayered space. I would love to go to Atlanta and Magic City. The only reason I didn't is because Houston is home and I felt like I need to put on for my city.

Waterman: Where do you see the future of strippers going? Because I think quarantine really propelled them into being autonomous and self-generative. A lot are transitioning to OnlyFans, cam work, becoming more responsible for their own income. You see strippers unionizing in Los Angeles.

Raquel: Houston, unlike most parts of the country during the pandemic, was like, "What pandemic?" Houston was open. Outside the club I did notice a lot of the girls were turning to internet resources. I definitely see sex work going beyond clubs.

I think stripping in America is becoming more mainstream and widespread. I hope that with that growth, women are getting paid what they need to get paid and getting treated how they need to get treated.

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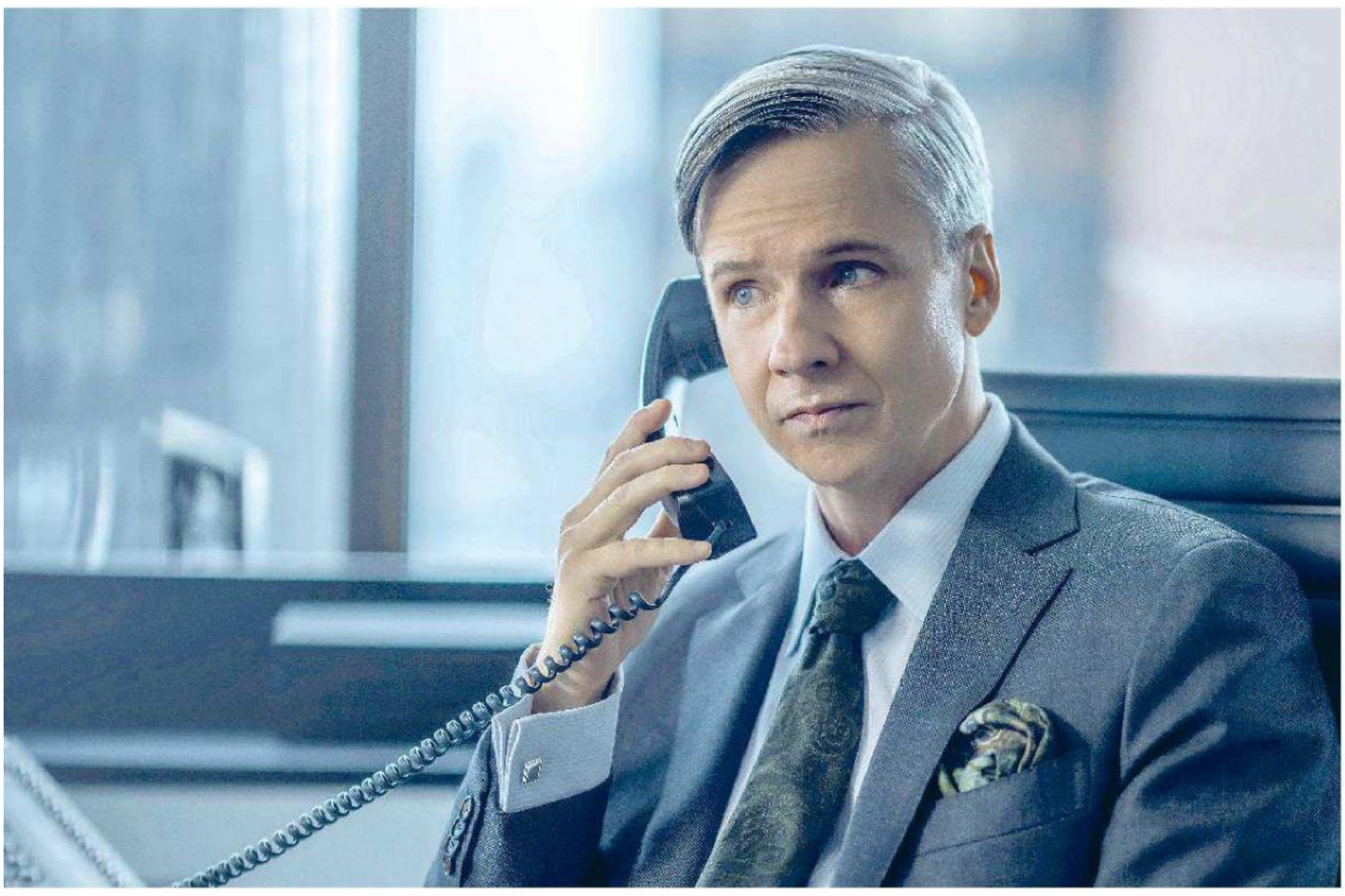


Apple TV+

SERIES villain John Cameron Mitchell saves the day.

PAGE TO SCREEN

New York set ablaze

THE APPLE TV+ ADAPTATION OF GARTH RISK HALLBERG'S '70S-SET 'CITY ON FIRE' PRESENTS A HOLLOW VERSION OF EARLY-2000S HISTORY.

BY BONNIE JOHNSON

BY THE TIME it came out in 2015, Garth Risk Hallberg's novel "City on Fire" was notorious for its scope of ambition, unheard-of advance and early acquisition by Scott Rudin. Upon release it sold well but received middling reviews. Predictably, it landed in development purgatory. ¶ The text was set in the New York City of 1976-77, a well-trod milieu in TV and film. For their Apple TV+ miniseries concluding Friday, Josh Schwartz and Stephanie Savage adapted the story to take place in 2002-03 — or a muted, blurry version thereof. The book, more than 900 pages, was an exhaustive inventory of its ensemble's lives, each in some way an emblem of its time. It was also a Dead White Girl thriller. ¶ Predictably, the showrunners resolve the book's ambivalence by closing in on the crime story, sacrificing much of its idiosyncrasy. (They're best known for "Gossip Girl" and "The O.C.") The new series' quicker pace tightens the main narrative thread and builds momentum the book sometimes lost. But the mise-en-scene suffers inexplicably and lacks resonance with our more recent era.

The plot centers on the shooting of an NYU freshman, Samantha, the night of a downtown rock show and an uptown penthouse soiree. When Sam leaves the show to see someone at the party, an unidentified acquaintance pursues her into Central Park, fires twice and leaves her for dead. As Sam lies in a coma over the following weeks, investigations home in on ties between the downtown musicians, led by a self-styled militant, and the Hamilton-Sweeney tycoon clan hosting the party that night.

The book opens at the holidays, with its critical action on New Year's Eve, then revisits the summer that led there. The show does the inverse: The shooting takes place on the Fourth of July, then we return to the previous winter. The series' final installment invokes the regional blackout of August 2003, echoing that of the book's late chapters set in July 1977.

The band playing downtown on the fateful night once featured William Hamilton-Sweeney, junkie painter son of the family. His replacement is Nicky Chaos, a pyromaniacal Svengali ruling a cadre known as the Phalanx. Sam's friend Charlie joins their ranks to seek the truth about her shooting. William's earnest boyfriend, Mercer, and dutiful sister, Regan, figure into the picture uptown. Amory Gould is the "demon brother" of William and Regan's stepmom, busy conducting a coup of his own. He hires Nicky to advance his development plans by setting fires in the Bronx and blackmails Regan's ethically challenged husband, Keith, into handling the payments. Thus Keith encounters Sam and gets involved with her, never mind that she's in college. When Nicky's volatile alliance with Amory breaks down, he plots revenge with stolen explosives, and Sam risks exposing the Phalanx.

The series changes the story's backdrop from punk to indie rock, from NYC's bankruptcy crisis to post-9/11 concerns. Popular New York bands like the Rapture and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs form the soundtrack, with a helping of then-resurgent downtown acts from the story's original period (Bush Tetras, Television, et al.). Charlie's dad died in the World Trade Center, and we briefly see the kids walk past Ground Zero. "See something? Say something" flits through the zine-style opening sequence. The heroic cop, who survived polio in the book, is an Arab American disabled by a hate crime in the show's backstory.

While the book's enchantment with its setting could feel fetishistic, the show's use of a memorable era feels strangely amnesiac. The time frame coincides with the invasion of Iraq that triggered major protests in Manhattan. The freshly militarized NYPD put snipers on rooftops for peace marches, raided convergence spaces and conducted mass arrests (I had the personal pleasure). It was the time of the government mantra, "If you're not with us, you're against us," and those who ran afoul of the Patriot Act faced FISA warrants and "no-fly" lists. That there's no acknowledgment of any of this, in a show dealing with cops and a group like the Phalanx, is ahistorical and downright bizarre.

Like Sam, I was a college music journalist and zine author who joined a radical collective and moved into an industrial squat. It was a potent time for both activism and underground music, but you wouldn't know it watching the show. Actor-musician Max Milner plays Nicky with enough sex appeal and actual musicality that perhaps his credo needn't exert the same pull it does in the book, where it's better developed. Still, it's hard to imagine that Sam followed him for over six months on a platform of "Burn It Down" and something vague about gentrification. Charlie sees through him in less than six weeks.

Yet one thing carries the series. In a surprise turn, John Cameron Mitchell plays Amory, with Cruella de Vil hair and nearly visible fangs. For queer kids of the show's era, Mitchell's "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and "Shortbus" are such cherished cultural touchstones, it's initially hard to see him as other than a sort of theatrical gay Santa Claus. (In fact, he workshopped "Hedwig" at the club where some of the series' scenes are set.) But he clearly delights in his newfound malevolence, and his performance as a bespoke, camp Machiavelli supplies the humor the book sorely lacked.

In Hallberg's text, Richard, an alcoholic journalist and buddy of the virtuous cop, takes an interest in Sam's story. After discovering the arrangement behind the fires, he winds up in the harbor. His Californian neighbor, Jenny, is assistant to William's gallerist. She's a character with depth in the book but a peripheral art groupie in the show, where William takes over the Nancy Drew beat.

In the original story, Regan's past rape led to a difficult pre-Roe abortion. In the series, it leads to an incredible adoption coincidence. It's a ground-brushing piece of narrative fruit that Hallberg — not a paragon of restraint — managed to resist in his doorstop tome. Mercer, who shares none of William's privilege, is one of the book's main protagonists, but the show spends sadly little time in Mercer's world. Without more access to his life and Regan's, it's hard to understand why they're with chronic dissemblers like William and Keith.

Yet the series preserves at least a dozen minor characters and several tangential storylines — like the cop's fertility crisis, and his colleagues, who are no longer racist thugs — adding or expanding several more, like a pointless red herring involving Regan's son. We get every confirmation, confrontation and confession that Hallberg withheld, and the dead don't stay dead in the series. We even see Amory lose his cool in a gratifying tantrum by Mitchell, who chews up a limo interior before going full-on Scooby Doo villain.

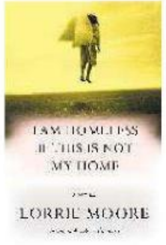
To the extent that the book was a disguised genre thriller, the show does a serviceable job of taming Hallberg's story to the small screen. Mitchell's mischief helps distract from the deficit of war-on-terror verisimilitude. Ideally, someone will compress his appearances into a highlight reel, NoHo Hank-style, for curious fans who haven't eight hours to burn on the couch in the middle of Pride month.

Johnson's work has appeared in the Guardian, the New York Times, Los Angeles Review of Books, the Believer and elsewhere.

A 2016 FEVER DREAM TO MATCH ITS REALITY

BY DAVID L. ULIN

JOHN FOLEY Opale / Bridgeman Images



Knopf

A WILD metaphysical trip awaits in Lorrie Moore's fourth novel.

LORRIE MOORE'S fourth novel, "I Am Homeless if This Is Not My Home," is, as Winston Churchill once observed of the Soviet Union, a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. I wouldn't have it any other way. Mostly centered on a middle-aged high school teacher named Finn who is navigating both the impending death of his older brother and a more elusive sort of loss involving his ex-girlfriend Lily, the book comes billed as a ghost story, but that isn't exactly right. Rather, it is novel as metaphysical meditation. "Death was a sea," Moore writes in the early pages, "and Life was another sea." Those capital letters are as instructive as they are intentional, one of the many ways the novel teaches us how it means to be read.

My favorite reading experiences are those where I arrive knowing nothing, without preconceptions of any kind. In a certain sense, that has happened here. I've long admired Moore's work, especially the collections "Birds of America" and "Bark." (Her story "People Like That Are the Only People Here," about a mother confronting a 1-year-old's cancer diagnosis, may be the most ruthless piece of fiction I know.) Still, I avoided any advance notice of this book. I didn't even read the cover flaps. A part of me wants to recommend the same approach, but then you wouldn't be reading this review. And so, here we are.

That is one of the points of "I Am Homeless if This Is Not My Home": that wherever you go, there you are. Every character in the book is dealing with events they can't foresee or foreseeable events they can't forestall — not least because the world appears to be falling apart.

It's the fall of 2016 and Finn's brother, Max, is in hospice in the Bronx. Finn is nothing if not lost. The country itself is about to face a terrible reckoning. The Chicago Cubs are in the World Series for the first time since 1945, but there's not even solace in that. The brothers, despite being from Illinois, are unsure which team to root for; "I kind of want Cleveland," Finn admits, to which Max responds, "Oh, come on, no, you want Cleveland? I kind of want Cleveland too." The Series is just one emblem of a larger state of disunion. The defining ethos of the year, Moore insists, is flipping the finger in various directions: "politicians to their parties, voters to the candidates, candidates back to the people, Stockholm to novelists, Bob Dylan to Stockholm. All that was left was the Cubs and the Indians."

This too is where we are.

Moore complicates the timeline by interweaving another narrative, told via a series of letters written by an innkeeper to her sister just after the end of the Civil War. The inn sits on South Sunken Road, which played a key role in the Battle of Antietam, where nearly 23,000 died or were wounded on the most death-drenched day in United States history. Moore takes her time in making the connection between then and now explicit; among the abiding pleasures of her new novel is the extent to which it requires us to read between the lines.

The innkeeper, for instance, is infatuated with a guest named Jack, an actor who may also be a fugitive; he claims to have pensions from both the Confederate and Union armies. When, after death, his identity is uncovered (I will not share it here), it comes as the best kind of surprise: inevitable if also unexpected, like a key turning in a lock. Yet even here, Moore seeks to confound us.

"Perhaps Jack the boarder had seeded his own rumors," the innkeeper observes. "I did not know whether he had the right eye color for who they all thought he was, but that would be no problem if I could stick the eyes shut with goat glue." The implication is that identity is flexible, easily adjusted to fit the necessities of narrative. Such a narrative may be written or it may be spoken. It may appear in a letter or a book. Either way, it matters less who Jack is than what he represents.

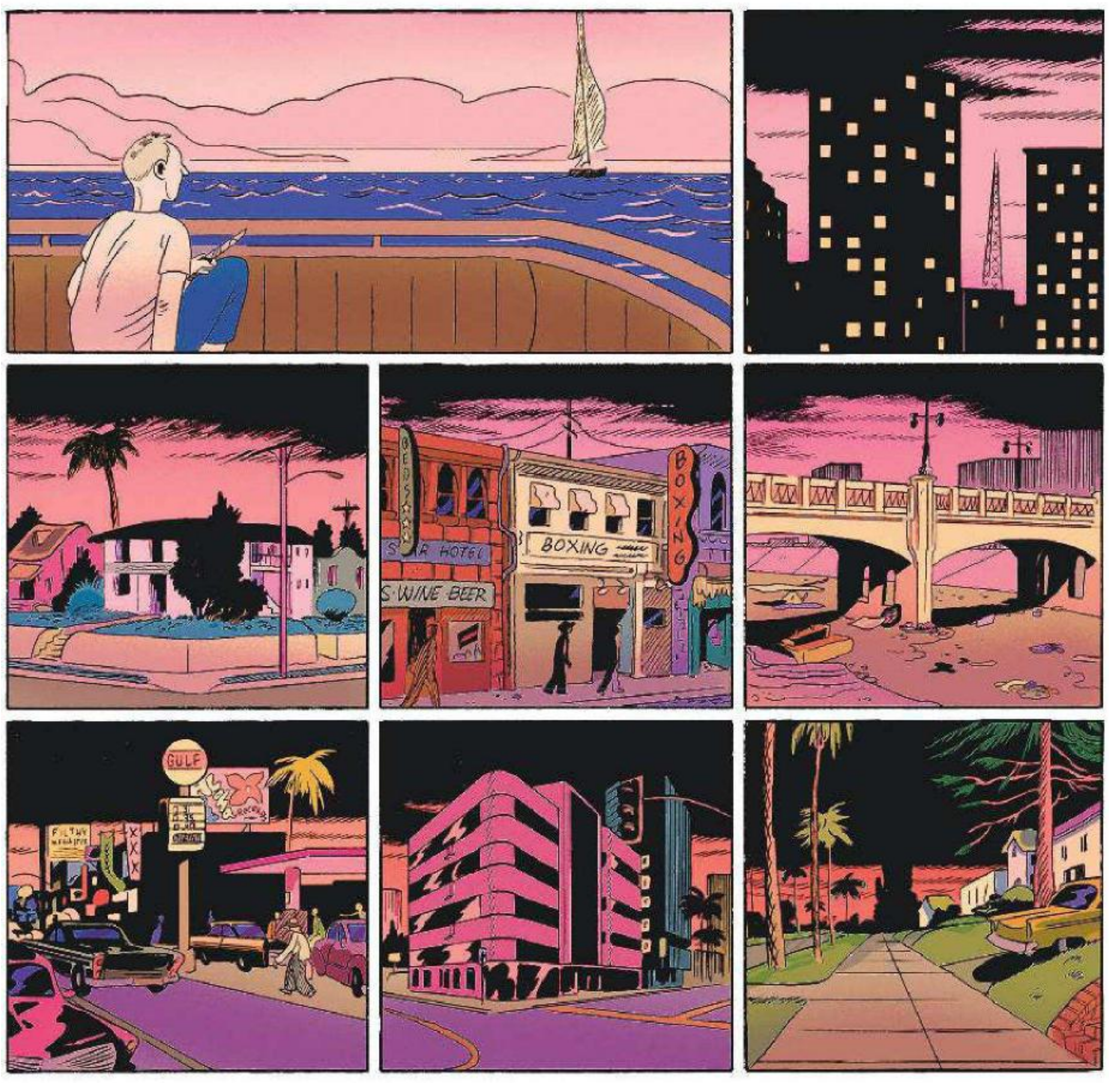
A similar conditionality infuses Finn's story, which becomes progressively stranger as the book goes on. Here too I don't want to reveal too much, except to say he spends much of the novel on a dreamlike road trip, accompanied by the aforementioned Lily, who appears to exist in a version of the bardo — a nether region between life and death. Imagine if Addie Bundren were awake and talking throughout William Faulkner's "As I Lay Dying." (Moore cites the book in one of her epigraphs.) "Death was a sea and Life was another sea": This may be the most illuminating statement in the narrative.

The metaphysics are not always consistent. Is Lily alive or a hallucination? If the latter, how can she be seen by anyone but Finn? By the same token, the geography of the novel occasionally slips a little, especially once the narrative shifts to the south.

But here's the thing: I don't care about that. I'm reading not for the tightness of the structure but for the acuity of the reverie. Moore is after something more mysterious than naturalism. She is operating in the territory of myth. "It was all hopeless," Finn reflects of Lily late in the novel: "like Eurydice, she'd grown fonder of the underworld. … Or perhaps she was not Eurydice but just some irrelevant lovely bug, something with the skitter of a beetle, the group-kamikaze of an ant, the horned ass of an earwig. Human pleas were useless. He felt a little desperate and overwhelmed."

Eurydice or some irrelevant lovely bug — what's the difference, in the end? "In life's wrestle with death," Moore declares, "there was much suffering, and in death a diabolical vanishing. Did everyone understand that's what they had signed up for, or really just not signed up at all but been drafted? Life was soldiering. Death was disappearance. Death sure had the power move." And yet, it's precisely this that makes Moore's fever dream of a world feel so relentlessly real.

Ulin is a former book editor and book critic of The Times.



Images from Sammy Harkham Pantheon

WHEN L.A. WAS BATHED IN 'BLOOD'

SAMMY HARKHAM BRINGS THE '70S GRINDHOUSE MOVIE BIZ TO GORY LIFE IN A COMPLEX GRAPHIC NOVEL

CAROLINA A. MIRANDA
COLUMNIST

GRINDHOUSE wasn't a movie genre afflicted by subtlety. The plots celebrated mayhem: chain-saw-wielding maniacs, murderous supernatural forces or a young woman on a revenge killing spree. There was fake blood (gallons of it), as well as gratuitous female nudity (cue the bouncing bosoms). And don't forget the screamy posters that boasted, for one example, "the most violent, blood-spurting fight ever filmed! ¶ This '70s-era genre may be fondly remembered by directors such as Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez, but these cheap flicks often inhabited a spot on the cinematic spectrum between god-awful and unwatchable. "Exploitation movies were like layers of grit wrapped around a few minutes of 'the good stuff' — full-frontal childbirth, the flaccid genitals of middle-aged sun worshippers, a woman being scalped," wrote journalist and horror writer Grady Hendrix of grindhouse in 2007. "Savvy distributors with calculators for eyes grabbed on to these exploitable elements and flogged the hell out of them." ¶ Sammy Harkham's new graphic novel, "Blood of the Virgin," carves out an imaginary corner of this pitiless sector of the movie industry and takes up residence.

It is 1971 and Seymour, our protagonist, is a young immigrant — an Iraqi Jew raised in Australia — who toils as a movie editor for a grindhouse film studio in Los Angeles that bears the incongruous name of Reverie. There, he helps assemble pictures with names like "Cobra Women," "Jungle Bitches" and "Sadist." Naturally, he aspires to direct a screenplay of his own, titled "Blood of the Virgin." (Nouvelle Vague, it ain't.)

The real horror isn't the film's plot, but everything Seymour endures to get his picture made. There's the impetuous studio boss who wants to hand the project over to another director who hacks away pages of dialogue. There's the leading lady who projectile-vomits a tuna sandwich on location. And there's the financier who yanks funding in the middle of the shoot, preferring to use the money on tiling his roof. Don't worry, one of Reverie's honchos tells Seymour, "you're an editor, you'll make it work."

The messiness of Seymour's professional life is paralleled by a chaotic personal life. Seymour and his wife, Ida — who is entirely unimpressed by the movie business — are new parents, and their infant has been steadily eroding their sanity and their sleep. Ida is exhausted and Seymour is too wrapped up in his movie (and getting schnockered at industry parties) to show much sympathy. He condescends; she bites back: "You always smile when you insult me."

These parallel narratives are intersected by others that enter and exit the book: the story of Ida's mother, a Hungarian immigrant who survived the Holocaust, as well as that of Joe Clayton, an impressionable Arizona cowboy with Hollywood stars in his eyes. In between are the workaday yarns of aspiring auteurs scratching out a living at the bottom rungs of the movie business.

In one scene, a special effects technician goes through the steps required to make a human head explode onscreen. Another takes us to a party at the studio boss' house, where screenwriters and techs huddle in the kitchen and debate the merits of Michelangelo Antonioni. Back at work, they shoot a scene where a woman bursts into flames.

"I'm not really a horror guy," says a sound man to a co-worker. "Me neither," responds the colleague. Yet this is the world they labor in.

To these stories, Harkham adds the language of cinema, including intercutting and match cuts (where the formal elements of one scene are echoed in the next for visual continuity). A sequence showing an inebriated Seymour and another man behaving abominably with a drunk woman at a party cuts to images of Ida caring for the couple's infant son. In another, the baby wails as Ida attempts to masturbate. She makes tea and the kettle screams. You can practically hear the intermingling sounds leap off the page.

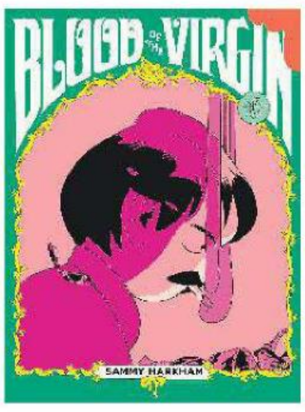
These visual sequences, in which dialogue is kept to a bare minimum or dispensed with entirely, are among the most powerful in the book — a technique Harkham has deployed to terrific effect in the past. His 2012 collection, "Everything Together: Collected Stories," featured a wrenching, minimally drawn story about a sailor who abandons his beloved to face adventure on the high seas and then struggles to return home. (The collection won a 2012 Los Angeles Times Book Prize.)

Particularly intriguing to me is the way Harkham, who was born and raised principally in Los Angeles, captures the city's shabby 1970s profile — in color, but mainly in monochromatic black, white and brown. Gas station signs rise above flat landscapes while Spanish Revival homes and Googie structures grasp at faded panache. Seymour and Ida inhabit not a glam Hollywood Hills home but a moldy court apartment. Harkham avoids the trope of a gleaming Hollywood sign standing triumphantly at the top of a mountain. Probably because, in the '70s, the sign was falling apart.

"Blood of the Virgin" is epic in scale for a graphic novel — checking in at nearly 300 pages. Harkham spent 14 years on it, and the labor pays off. His previous collection showed an artist who was still coming into his voice, with drawing styles and storytelling methods that varied from one tale to another. Omnipresent was the influence of comics minimalist Chris Ware, known for his spare drawing style and his tight, diagrammatic sequences.

The new book shows Harkham settled into a style all his own and an expert sense of pacing. Pithy chatter among a multitude of characters occupies a dense grid, but a dream sequence is more loosely rendered, dispensing with the traditional black borders between images. In that scene, Seymour finds himself in a car chase through a landscape that could have been plucked out of one of L.A. photographer Anthony Hernandez's "Automotive Landscapes" pictures of the 1970s. When he blinks awake, the adventure evaporates and he gets back to work.

Grindhouse movies may have fed the very basic urge to witness sex and death. "Blood of the Virgin" is infinitely more complex, braiding together narratives about love that waxes and wanes, about failure and success, elation and resentment, and, ultimately, what it means to "make it" in a biz that carries the word "exploitation" in its core.



THE REAL horror in Sammy Harkham's latest graphic novel is the grueling process that film editor Seymour goes through in getting his project made.

A reporter pulled into the spell of a 'Con Queen'

BY CHRIS VOGNAR

YOU MIGHT get a vertiginous feeling as you tear through "The Con Queen of Hollywood," as if the ground beneath your feet were slowly dissolving with each page turned.

Much like its subject, a possibly psychopathic fraudster who specialized in impersonating powerful female entertainment executives, Scott C. Johnson's book is a shape-shifter, morphing from true crime investigation to memoir to travelogue to an examination of mythology and linguistics and journalistic ethics. If it occasionally tears off more than it can chew, it does so thrillingly and with writerly precision. And despite the thematic depths it mines, it is a rocket of a book that can and should be consumed in a headlong dash for maximum effect.

We begin in a shroud of mystery. A series of artists and craftspeople — a cinematographer, a screenwriter, a still photographer — receive convincing, out-of-the-blue and elaborate solicitations for what sound like dream projects working in Indonesia.

The person who hooks the cinematographer and the photographer (among others) claims to be the powerful Hollywood executive Amy Pascal. "Pascal" strings them along through a steady stream of phone calls, emails and video calls (always with the camera turned off), sending them wandering through foreign lands, sometimes verbally abusing them, all the while insisting they will soon be reimbursed for their financial outlay. And then, Pascal — or, sometimes, Wendi Murdoch or Christine Hearst Schwarzman or Kathleen Kennedy — vanishes like a digital-age Keyser Söze.

It's a crazy story, and Johnson, a longtime journalist and foreign correspondent, takes it in unusual but generally fruitful directions. A private investigator, a hard-charging New Jersey woman, enters the picture and discovers the scam artist's true identity. So does Johnson, who embarks on his own obsessive journey into this heart of darkness. If you haven't been following the recent news stories and wish to approach the book in full suspense (the culprit was recently cleared for extradition to the U.S.), this might be a good time to stop reading.

Hargobind Tahilramani was born in Indonesia, the third child of an Indian family that he appears to have tormented from an early age. Deeply antisocial, prone to violent tantrums and long conversations with imaginary friends, he absorbed himself in movies, TV and automated phone sex and became a master of mimicry.

Tahilramani spent time in the U.S., where he was active in the college speech and debate world, and once terrorized two college debaters by threatening them over the phone in the voice of Cate Blanchett. He was eventually imprisoned for making terroristic bomb threats in his native land, where he had also been committed to mental institutions. One of his two sisters, in lieu of using his real name, simply refers to him as "Monster."

An unhinged, highly imaginative sadist, the Con Queen makes Patricia Highsmith's Tom Ripley look like a rank amateur. And he proves utterly fascinating to Johnson, who uses his subject as a springboard into a variety of musings and avenues of self-discovery.

This is a risky move; as journalists we are often told that we are not the story. On the other hand, we're also reminded to write what we know. Regardless of your favorite adage, an author needs to be in full command of their craft to navigate first-person waters.

Johnson may slip here and there as he slides down his chosen rabbit holes, but his gambits are more than worth the reader's while. Detours into his own family history, Indonesian mythology, the mindset of both predator and prey and his own motives as a journalist don't just help illuminate his primary target; they also strip away layers of impassivity and turn the book into a more visceral experience.

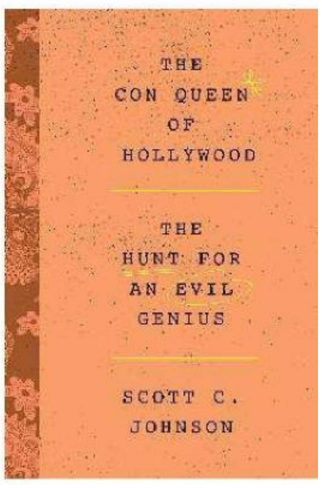
At one point Johnson draws on Janet Malcolm's 1990 book "The Journalist and the Murderer" and its controversial opening salvo: "Every journalist who is not too stupid or full of himself to notice what is going on knows that what he does is morally indefensible." (Malcolm was, of course, a journalist.)

As Johnson tracks Tahilramani, locates him in England (where he was working various scams and moonlighting as a food blogger) and engages him in a series of long, exhausting conversations, he floats in and out of sympathy for the devil, and comes to question his own motives and complicity.

"Con Queen" is largely the story of one disturbed individual and the havoc he was able to wreak. But it's also about the transactional nature of life itself, the reasons we do what we do and believe what we choose to believe.

The Con Queen, after all, could not have succeeded if his marks hadn't eagerly walked into the traps he had laid. Tahilramani may just want to watch the world burn, but the rest of us, or most of us anyway, are after something else. "The Con Queen of Hollywood" haunts us with the question of what that thing might be. Just as important, it also happens to be one hell of a yarn.

Vognar is a freelance writer based in Houston.



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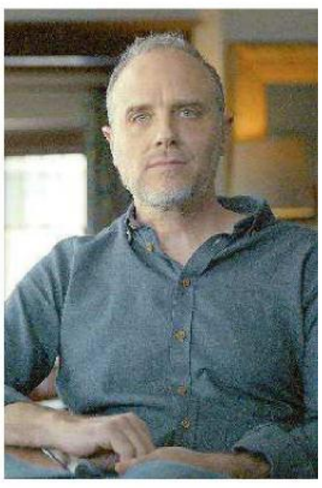
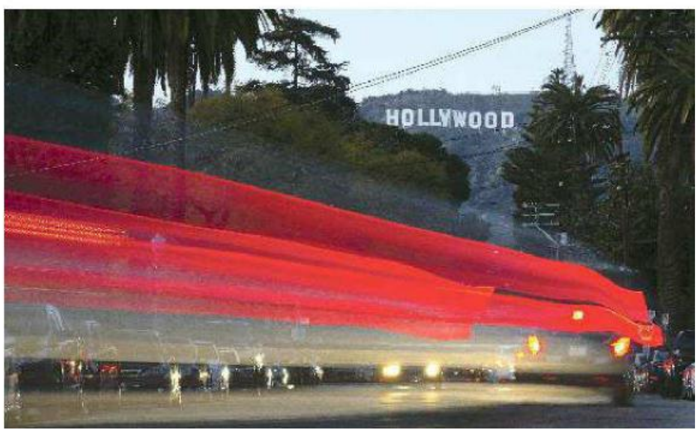


Britton Foster

HOLLYWOOD calling? No, an impostor. Scott C. Johnson tracks a culprit and finds more than expected.



Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

BESTSELLERS

Fiction

Fiction	weeks on list
1. **Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow** by Gabrielle Zevin (Knopf: $28) Lifelong BFFs collaborate on a wildly successful video game.	50
2. **Lady Tan's Circle of Women** by Lisa See (Scribner: $28) An orphan raised by her wealthy grandparents during China's Ming Dynasty trains to be a doctor, but is forced into an arranged marriage.	2
3. **The Covenant of Water** by Abraham Verghese (Grove: $32) An epic novel follows three generations of a family in southern India from 1900 through 1977.	7
4. **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus (Doubleday: $29) In the 1960s, a female chemist goes on to be a single parent, then a celebrity chef.	60
5. **Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper: $33) The story of a boy born into poverty in Appalachia.	35
6. **Happy Place** by Emily Henry (Berkley: $27) A couple who have split up pretend to be together while on vacation with friends.	8
7. **Yellowface** by R. F. Kuang (Morrow: $30) After a young and successful author dies in a freak accident, a struggling writer steals her just-finished manuscript.	5
8. **The Wind Knows My Name** by Isabel Allende (Ballantine: $28) The story of a child sent to England to escape 1938 Nazi-occupied Austria is intertwined with the 2019 story of a refugee from El Salvador separated from her parents.	2
9. **Before the Coffee Gets Cold** by Toshikazu Kawaguchi (Hanover Square: $20) A Tokyo cafe gives customers the chance to travel back in time.	1
10. **Hello Beautiful** by Ann Napolitano (Dial: $28) A college student from a home broken by tragedy falls in love with a woman who has strong bonds with her sisters.	14

Nonfiction

Nonfiction	weeks on list
1. **The Wager** by David Grann (Doubleday: $30) The story of the shipwreck of an 18th-century British warship and a mutiny among the survivors.	9
2. **Pageboy** by Elliot Page (Flatiron: $30) A memoir from the star of "Juno" and "The Umbrella Academy" explores his journey to self-realization.	2
3. **The Creative Act** by Rick Rubin (Penguin: $32) Guidance on how to be a creative person.	22
4. **Outlive** by Peter Attia, Bill Gifford (Harmony: $32) A science-based self-help guide to living longer.	1
5. **Burn It Down** by Maureen Ryan (Mariner: $33) The entertainment journalist makes the case for fundamental change in Hollywood's corrosive culture.	2
6. **1964** by Paul McCartney (Liveright: $75) Paul McCartney's 1964 photographs documenting the height of Beatlemania from an inside perspective.	1
7. **Atomic Habits** by James Clear (Avery: $27) The self-help expert's guide to building good habits and breaking bad ones via tiny changes in behavior.	63
8. **What If? 2** by Randall Munroe (Riverhead: $30) The writer of the internet comic strip "xkcd" offers a second installment of explorations of unusual science questions.	1
9. **I'm Glad My Mom Died** by Jennette McCurdy (Simon & Schuster: $28) A memoir from the star of TV's "iCarly" and "Sam & Cat."	44
10. **The Book of Charlie** by David Von Drehle (Simon & Schuster: $26) The journalist tells the remarkable story of his 109-year-old neighbor.	2

Paperback bestsellers lists and more at latimes.com/bestsellers.

Southern California bestsellers from CALIBA

TV THIS WEEK

By Matt Cooper

SUNDAY

"2023 BET Awards" (BET, 8 p.m.): Canadian rapper Drake leads the field with seven nominations at the annual shindig.

MONDAY

"The Bachelorette" (ABC, 9 p.m.): "The Bachelor's" Charity Lawson will be the one handing out the roses this time 'round.

"POV" (KOCE, 10 p.m.): A filmmaker explores the Black experience in post-Civil War America through the lens of his own family history in "After Sherman."

TUESDAY

"American Experience" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): The new episode "Casa Susanna" recalls a safe space that members of the LGBTQ+ community created for themselves in the Catskills in the 1950s and '60s.

"Taylor Mac's 24-Decade History of Popular Music" (HBO, 9 p.m.): The performance artist gets gussied up for this guided tour of American song from 1776 to the present.

WEDNESDAY

"Hijack" (Apple TV+): Crying babies and a line at the lavatory are the least of anyone's worries in this new drama starring "Luther's" Idris Elba.

"Grown-ish" (Freeform, 9 p.m.): The "Black-ish" spinoff starring Yara Shahidi clocks in for a sixth and final season.

"Rock Hudson: All That Heaven Allowed" (HBO, 10 p.m.): This new documentary remembers the closeted 1950-60s matinee idol who died of an AIDS-related illness in 1985.

THURSDAY

"Warrior" (Max): Andrew Koji kicks butt from one end of 19th century San Francisco to the other as the martial-arts drama returns for a third season.

Netflix

HENRY CAVILL in "The Witcher."

"The Witcher" (Netflix): Henry Cavill grunts and F-bombs his way through a new series of adventures as the fantasy drama returns for its third season.

"The Match" (TNT, 4 p.m.): The NFL's Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce and the NBA's Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson hit the links for charity.

FRIDAY

"Essence Fest Primetime" (Hulu, 5 p.m.; also Saturday-Sunday): Missy Elliott, Megan Thee Stallion and Ms. Lauryn Hill take it to the stage in this three-night event in New Orleans.

"Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan" (Prime Video): John Krasinski reports for duty as the action drama returns for its fourth and final season.

"The 100 Days" (KOCE, 8 and 9 p.m.): This new docuseries that revisits pivotal moments in history launches with back-to-back episodes.

"The Articulate Hour" (KOCE, 11 p.m.): Scientists, artists, et al. ponder the concept of time in this new episode.

SATURDAY

"USFL Championship Game" (NBC, 5 p.m.): The league's top two teams face off.

"My Professor's Guide to Murder" (Lifetime, 8 p.m.): What can she do, he's got tenure in this new TV movie.

FEEDBACK

Dark days for the theater

As a longtime supporter of the Center Theatre Group, I was distressed to learn of their current problems ["Center Theatre Group cuts 10% of staff," June 18], but not surprised.

Jessica Gelt's excellent article covers the theater world's problems in great detail. Sadly too many theaters have abandoned the lessons learned during the pandemic. Wearing masks indoors prevents COVID from spreading, and requiring them makes theater audiences feel safer.

Keep the audiences safe and they will return.

Steve Purvis
Santa Monica

::

After the social deprivation of lockdowns, and the societal fractures made worse by the fact that we have fewer encounters with strangers in our daily living, the restoration of live theater feels like a critical need.

Emily Faxon
San Francisco

::

Organizations like Center Theatre Group were only possible because of government support and a shared belief that theater was an intrinsic and vital ingredient in the cultural lifeblood of a city.

I'm rooting for Center Theatre Group. A cultural pandemic is upon us, and there is no miracle vaccine waiting in the wings. Buckle up and show up. It's theater's only hope.

James Sims
Middletown, Conn.

A pan of 'The Flash'

Why do you continue to let Justin Chang review superhero movies [" 'The Flash' is stuck in the past," June 16] as if they are meant to be anything other than summer entertainment?

It's like a Pulitzer Prize-winning author trying to write a critical review of a third-grader's book report. All of the other third-graders like and understand the subject matter, which is really all that matters, isn't it?

Chris Wrenn
Carlsbad

I could drink a case of her

Regarding " 'Joni Jam' for the ages at the Gorge" [June 12]: Joni Mitchell is a once-in-a-civilization talent.

"Both Sides Now" tops my list of the best lyrics ever written. And the underappreciated "Cactus Tree" isn't far behind.

John Whiteman
San Diego

The Tonys reflect hope

Regarding "Tonys find meaning off script" [June 13]: Writing holds a mirror up to our minds. The dramatic arts lift that mirror onto society to provide a reflection of who we are and who we may become.

Indeed, this year's Tony Awards gathering was an inspiration to all.

Ben Miles
Huntington Beach

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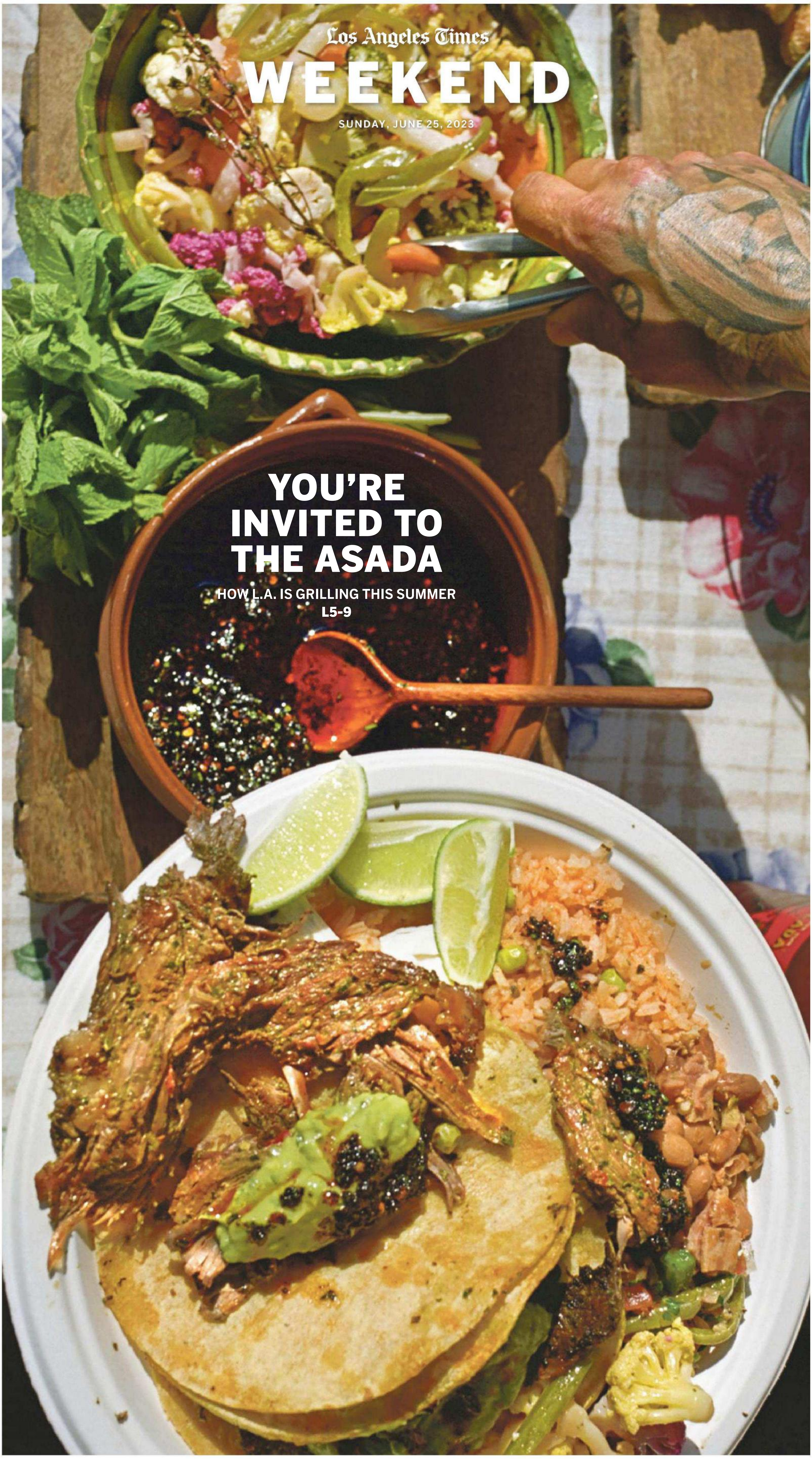
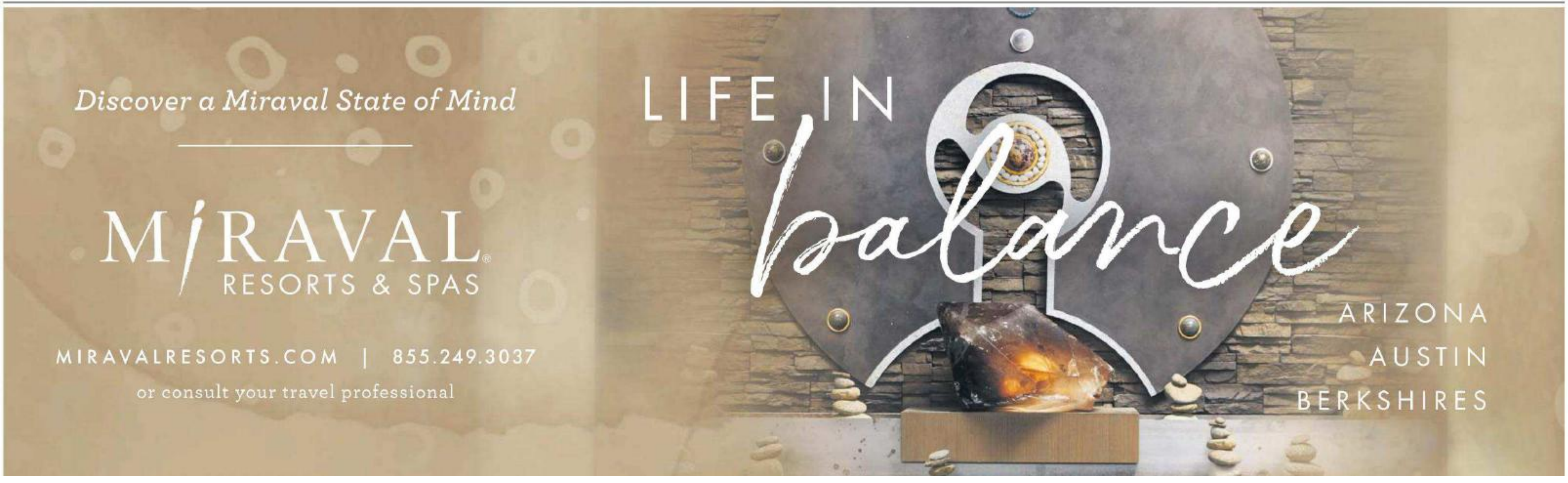


YOU'RE INVITED TO THE ASADA

HOW L.A. IS GRILLING THIS SUMMER

L5-9

Carlos Jaramillo For The Times



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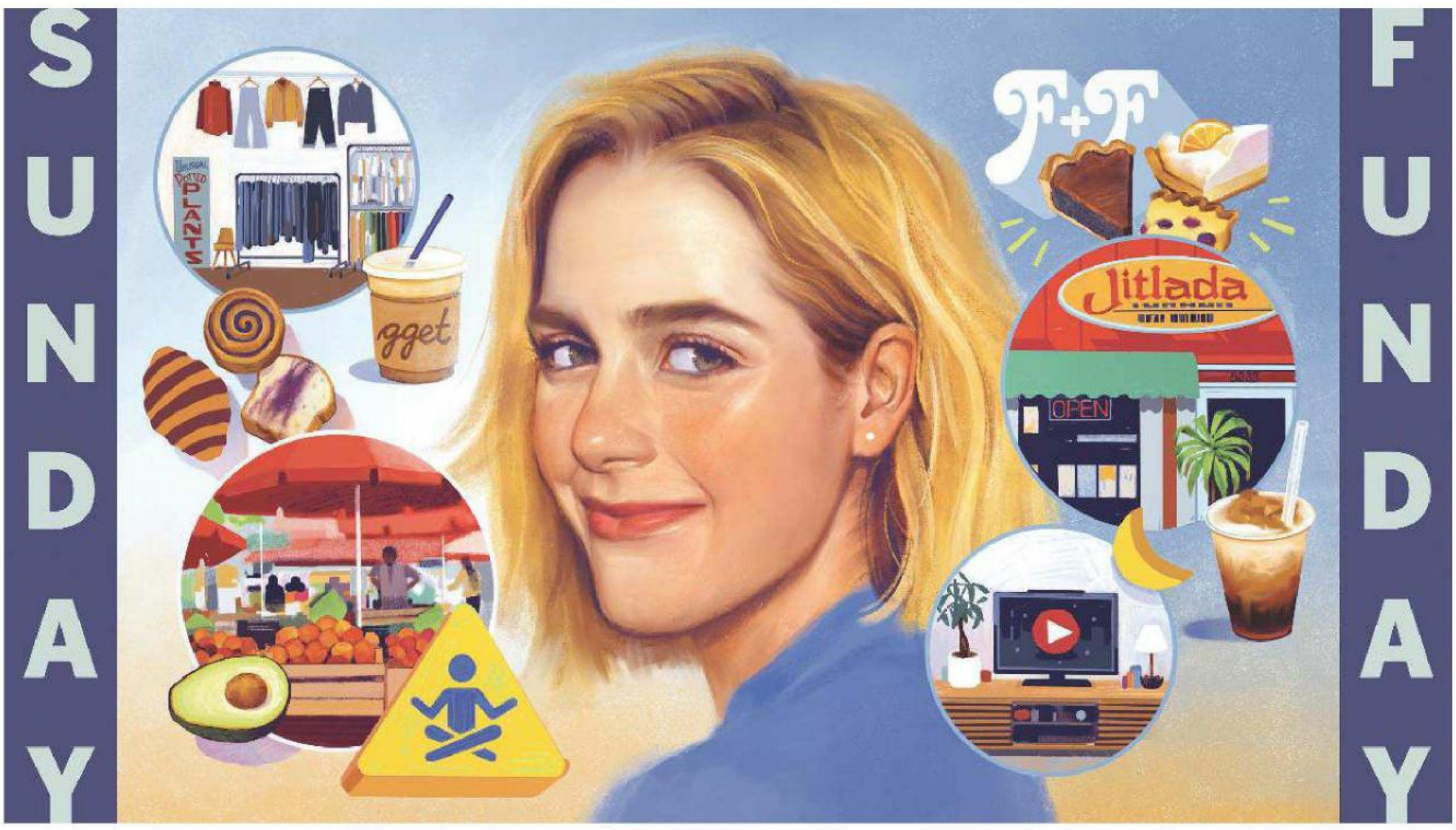

SAMUEL RODRIGUEZ For The Times

VINTAGE SHOPPING, PLUS CAFFEINE, OFFERS A WEEKEND RECHARGE

‘MAD MEN’S’ KIERNAN SHIPKA RESETS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD WITH HOT YOGA, A TRIP TO THE FARMERS MARKET AND A MIDAFTERNOON ‘COFFEE ADVENTURE’

BY ADAM TSCHORN

AMC’s “Mad Men” didn’t just introduce the world to Kiernan Shipka, who played Don and Betty Draper’s daughter, Sally, throughout the series’ seven-season run; it also introduced the Chicago-born actor — at age 6 — to Los Angeles. She’s lived here ever since. “We were out here for pilot season because, somehow, I convinced my mother to take me to L.A. for pilot season,” Shipka said over a matcha latte recently. “It was really just supposed to be three months, but then I got ‘Mad Men,’ and that turned out to be from [age] 6 to 15. A lot of now-adults that I know who grew up in the acting business didn’t even really grow up in L.A. because they were shooting all sorts of stuff everywhere [else]. I’m so lucky. I feel like ‘Mad Men’ shooting here for all that time gave me a really good grip on [the city].”

Shipka has remained rooted in L.A. as her career has continued to branch out. Post-Draper credits include landing lead roles in the Netflix series “Chilling Adventures of Sabrina” (2018-20) as well as the TV series adaptation of the film “Swimming With Sharks” (opposite Diane Kruger) and the film “Wildflower,” which both came out in 2022. In February, she wrapped shooting a supporting role in the Christmas movie “Red One” (due to hit Prime Video in advance of the year-end holidays), and she has two more big-screen appearances in the pipeline.

“I shot two movies last year that I think will probably come out this year,” Shipka said. “ ‘Totally Killer,’ which is a movie for Amazon, and ‘Sweethearts’ [for New Line], which is also slated to come out this year.”

At the moment, you can catch her on “White House Plumbers,” the five-part limited HBO series that focuses on the behind-the-scenes story of Watergate operatives G. Gordon Liddy (Justin Theroux) and E. Howard Hunt (Woody Harrelson). Shipka plays the latter’s daughter, Kevan Hunt, president of the Smith College Republicans and, in Shipka’s words, “the golden child.” It was a role she finished shooting in 2021.

“We actually started shooting that two years ago,” said Shipka about “White House Plumbers.” “A bunch of us stayed buddies from that shoot, and we had this really amazing time. It’s wild — and funny — that it’s coming out now. I kind of get to relive the experience.”

As for her ideal Sunday, Shipka came to her interview — at the same cafe where she first started drinking coffee in 2013, she mentioned — with her homework *done*: a list of places top of mind and supporting documentation in hand (a photo of a cream-topped coffee drink on her phone).

“Sunday is definitely a ‘me’ day,” she said. “Sometimes that means I want to see people, and sometimes that means I don’t. Occasionally I’ll meet up with people on Sundays, but I try to just kind of play that by ear and try to figure out what my social battery’s looking like and then go from there. Kind of like: ‘This needs to be a day where I don’t see that many people and recharge for the week ahead.’ It’s sort of a case-by-case situation.”

10:30 A.M.
HEAD OVER TO LARCHMONT VILLAGE FOR A LATTE

I’m gonna say it’s like a nice, lazy 10:30 a.m. roll out of bed. And it’s Sunday, so I’m coming up to Larchmont to get coffee. I love **Go Get Em Tiger**. I just tried their matcha for the first time because I’m having a little bit of a matcha era right now where I’m trying all the different ones around town to rank them and make a list.

It’s good, because I feel like I get so much decision anxiety when I’m choosing a drink, that if I can just sort of organize myself and narrow down my options to one thing per place — because I’m pursuing this greater matcha ranking — it makes my morning a bit easier. I usually get an iced latte here. And whether it’s an iced matcha or iced latte or with almond milk or regular milk, they always shake it up real nice.

Sometimes, because I don’t like to stick to just one place for coffee, I’ll go to **Clark Street [Bakery]** across the street. They have great bread, great pastries, and they’re the nicest people. There I’ll get a cappuccino or an iced latte. Both put me in a perfect position to then go straight to the farmers market.

11 A.M.
STOCK UP ON AVOCADOS AND EXCITING LETTUCES AT THE FARMERS MARKET(S)

I just love a Sunday farmers market. I love chatting with people. The best is running into people at the farmers market. It feels very … it kind of puts you *into* life.

Which one I go to kind of depends on how I’m feeling. If my schedule for Sunday is a bit tighter, I’ll probably go to the **Larchmont Village Farmers Market** because it’s a smaller market and I get less swept away. But if I have a morning blocked off and I really want to go to a ton of different vendors or if I’m cooking that week or feeling like I want a different lettuce every single day of the week — and get all my steps in — then I go to the **Hollywood Farmers Market**, where I can get all those very exciting lettuces.

[At Larchmont,] I really like this place called **Wava Life**. They make kombucha, tepache and jun, which are all fermented drinks that I really love — because I’m never going to ferment my own drinks — and they also make bone broth. I just love that stand. And I think **JJ’s Lone Daughter Ranch**, which isn’t at Larchmont but is at the Hollywood one, has the best avocados and citrus. Their avocado is the avocado to end all avocados. I don’t want to, you know, make the definitive call, but they’re so, so good. And there’s so much variety.

NOON
MAKE A BEELINE TO BRUNCH AT HONEY HI

By about noon, I’m hungry and I want to get a nice little brunch. And a place that’s really close to my heart is **Honey Hi** in Echo Park. It’s very nourishing brunch food — and lunch and breakfast food too, just not dinner.

I tend to go there solo, but it’s also a great place to bring friends. That would be my choice for a Sunday brunch. I love the miso bowl. The smoothies are really great, and they have great grain bowls — all sorts of delicious bowls — and they do a weekend pancake that I haven’t had yet but I’m dying to try.

I see Kacie [Carter], who’s one of the owners, [shopping] at the Hollywood Farmers Market with this giant cart. It’s just really beautiful food, and a lot of it’s local.

1 P.M.
GO ON A VINTAGE-SHOPPING ADVENTURE

There are a couple of things I do in the afternoon. One, I feel like shopping is *always* more fun on a Sunday, and there’s a place I try to always hit when I’m in town. I went with friends a couple of Sundays ago, and it was part of one of the greatest Sundays in recent memory. It’s a place called **Mothfood**, which is a vintage store in Highland Park. I’m actually wearing jeans from there right now. These are vintage little boy’s pants from the ’30s.

Tommy Dorr runs the place, and he just has the coolest selection of vintage T-shirts, fun jackets and incredible denim. I feel like I’ve found the most special stuff there recently. It’s really well-curated and it’s really wearable, which I love. And it’s very modern-feeling. Some days I’ll look at my outfit and go, “Oh, my God, it doesn’t go past the 1950s,” which is wild because it all feels very modern.

2 P.M.
MAKE A PIT STOP FOR PIE

If I’m in the Honey Hi/Mothfood part of town, I would probably go to **Grand Central Market** to stop by **Fat + Flour**, which is Nicole Rucker’s spot, and just pick up dessert — because I’m planning in advance for the dessert I’m going to have on Sunday night obviously. And picking up dessert in the middle of the day is a good idea because, when you want dessert later, you’ll think, “Damn, I should have gotten an extra pastry or something.” And she makes the best pies and cookies. The chocolate chess pie is pretty next-level.

3:30 P.M.
SWING BY THE (YOGA) STUDIO

So that’s part of my afternoon. And then one thing that I try to do every Sunday is yoga. I see if I can hit a class or go see Joe at **Urban 728 Yoga**, which is a wonderful, beautiful yoga studio just north of Melrose on La Brea. It’s hot yoga there, so it kind of gets you sweating. Joe is one of my favorite instructors that I’ve ever done yoga with. Every instructor I’ve ever had there has been really lovely too; they’re just really good people. With something like a workout class, you want the vibe to be really nice so you’ll want to go. And I just love it there! It puts me in a good head space for the week ahead.

5 P.M.
TIME FOR A COFFEE ADVENTURE

If I’ve planned the day right, then there’s just enough time to get a second coffee, an afternoon coffee. Lately I’ve kind of been fixated on fun, caffeinated beverages — beyond just milk and coffee and into the more foam-and-syrup kind of thing. I can’t quite do it in the morning, but the afternoon is time for a coffee adventure — a playful afternoon coffee.

There’s a place called **Damo** in Koreatown that makes an einspänner latte, and on Sunday, I had a hojicha einspänner, which is hojicha tea with this very thick, very, very, very luscious cream top, and you just mix it all together. If I’m sipping something fun, I’m more likely to be reading something or working on something while I’m having it. It’s sort of what gets me through the afternoon lull and picks me up.

7:30 P.M.
TAKEOUT AND TV TIME

For me, Sundays are usually a takeout day. Because if I’ve already done shopping that day and there are things in the fridge — like from the farmers market — I’m not feeling motivated to make anything. I mean, haven’t I done enough just *accumulating* everything? Which is why I’m probably going to watch something, order takeout and sort of write out my week ahead and make sure everything is organized. And cooking is one less thing I have to think about.

I’d probably order from **Jitlada**, which is on Sunset in Thai Town. It’s actually really fun to go to, but they also do incredible takeout. And the crispy morning glory salad is delicious. The crab fried rice is delicious, and the green curry is one of my favorite things. It’s like, how can food this good be literally *on my couch*?

Watching-wise, I’m a “Succession” girl, but I’m not all caught up because I’ve been trying to finish **“Jury Duty,”** which is on Freevee. It is genius! James Marsden is so good in it, and it is so fun to watch. It’s my new favorite thing, and I can’t wait to see what they do next.

Or maybe it’s a movie night. I always feel like there’s a million movies that I still want to see — or see again. I love a good rewatch these days. I really like watching a movie for a second or third time. It’s a completely different experience. I recently rewatched “La La Land” and then I rewatched “Whiplash.” I just was in my little Damien Chazelle mode for two nights there. And I’d definitely seen each of those movies at least twice. I even like rewatching classic movies. I rewatched “Sunset Boulevard” a couple weeks ago, and it was just … perfect.

10:30 P.M.
BRINGING THE WEEKEND TO A CLOSE

I would say [that by] 10:30, I’m winding down.

In Sunday Funday, L.A. people give us a play-by-play of their ideal Sunday around town. Find ideas and inspiration for where to go, what to eat and how to enjoy life on the weekends.

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SUMMER DEAN, left, and T'Essence Minnitee take a selfie during a Tea Party 4 Black Girls event at Malibu Farm. Founder Bianka Gravillis, bottom, thoughtfully curates the guest list for the wellness nonprofit's meetups.

TEA PARTY 4 BLACK GIRLS STEEPS WOMEN IN COMFORT

BIANKA GRAVILLIS, WHO CREATED THE ORGANIZATION, SAYS HER 'GOAL IS TO GET BLACK WOMEN TAKEN CARE OF IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD.'

BY KAILYN BROWN

Photographs by DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

FROM the moment guests arrived at Malibu Farm for a tea party on a chilly Saturday afternoon, they were treated like royalty.

Though a line of patrons stretched outside of the farm-to-table eatery on the Malibu pier, the tea party guests were promptly escorted inside. And before they could find their assigned seats at an embellished dining table, a waiter rushed over to offer them a hibiscus tequila cocktail, never letting their glasses go empty during the elaborate four-course meal. At one point during the party, a woman skeptically asked, "We can really take whatever we want?" after spotting a display of clothing from Mother Denim, which was co-sponsoring the event, among other items. (The answer was yes, absolutely.)

It's the type of service that Bianka Gravillis — the CEO and creator of Tea Party 4 Black Girls — says Black women should have access to wherever they go, regardless of whether they're an "influencer" or not.

"I feel like we've been treated as second-class citizens" in certain spaces, says Gravillis, who floated around the tea party in an all-denim fit, looking as confident as Queen Charlotte but friendlier. "[Black women] should be able to do the bare minimum and the max, and still be treated like an absolute queen."

Through Tea Party 4 Black Girls, Gravillis says her "goal is to get Black women taken care of in every sense of the word."

The Mid-City native dreamed up Tea Party 4 Black Girls to create a space where Black women, including nonbinary people, could feel like their overall wellness — mental, physical, financial and social — was being prioritized and where they could comfortably discuss issues that affect their community. The nonprofit hosts a variety of bimonthly events that are free and invite-only, though people can fill out a sign-up form to attend.

"I didn't like the idea of creating something for our community and then having them pay for it," says Gravillis, adding that she initially paid for the events out of her own pocket with a partner but that they now have other budgetary streams, including brand partnerships. "You got to pay to go to a flea market. You got to pay to go to a party. You got to pay for everything. It's like, is there not just a place that will take care of me?"

The idea for Tea Party 4 Black Girls came to Gravillis in early 2022 after she experienced a series of tumultuous events. In 2020, when the pandemic hit, she moved from Philadelphia — where she was attending Drexel University — back to L.A.; her parents were separating and she was trying to get an apartment for herself and her high-school-age brother.

"I wasn't sleeping very well," she says. "I didn't know how to navigate very important conversations because I was just stressed and exhausted." Having gone to predominantly white schools since she was a kid, Gravillis longed to have a community of Black women whom she could talk to and "really get things off my chest," she says. So she created it herself.

Gravillis says she chose to support Black women specifically through her nonprofit because of the unique challenges they face in their personal and professional lives.

"I think there is across the board a level of exhaustion that our entire Black woman community has," says Gravillis. "Whether it's because we've been put in these caregiving positions very early in life. Whether that's because we have siblings or we have children young ... there's just such a level of dependency I think so many people have on Black women."

She adds, "This space is important because I think other Black women need to know that we are all experiencing, not necessarily the same thing but a variation of a lot of the same stuff, and there's a lot of ancestral trauma that we haven't really had an opportunity to really spend time unpacking or just talk through with a vast group of Black women that have completely different backgrounds or different abilities to home in on their emotions."

Gravillis threw the first Tea Party 4 Black Girls event in May 2022, and has since hosted about 10 local events, including ones at Formula Fig (a technology-focused spa for skincare treatments), Tea at Shiloh (a late-night teahouse), Highly Likely (a cafe in West Adams) and Ask Tia (a health-care clinic created for and by women).

Among the events are intimate meetups (no more than 10 guests) where they typically do an activity like painting and discuss a topic such as how to embody self-love; founder Fridays, at which they treat local entrepreneurs to services like facials and sound baths; and branded events (no more than 25 guests) where they team up with companies like Mother Denim for a soirée.

Gravillis thoughtfully curates the guest lists based on what type of event it is or its industry focus. For example, at the recent event at Malibu Farm, the theme was sustainability, so many of the guests worked in that field or had an interest in the topic (environmentalists, foragers, models, herbalists and aestheticians).

The nonprofit also hosts mixers, which are its only public event open to allies of the Black community. At the mixers, which feel more like a lively L.A. day party than a mellow tea gathering, you can expect networking, cocktails and raffle prizes. (Guests have to pay for food and drinks at the mixers.)

The dress code for Tea Party 4 Black Girls events isn't as restrictive as the waist-snatching corsets depicted on "Bridgerton." Rather, Gravillis encourages guests to "come as you are."

"We call it a modern take on tea parties because it's not like everyone's pulling up in [fascinator] hats and has all the fancy dresses, and like crumpets and everything," Gravillis says. She added "tea party" to the name of the nonprofit because she wanted the events to feel "bougie but accessible." The parties always feature some form of tea, whether it's traditional hot tea, iced tea or a tea-infused alcoholic beverage.

Doorjé Animashaun of West Hollywood attended the first Tea Party 4 Black Girls event last year just months after moving from Amsterdam to L.A. She was a new mom in a new city, and she didn't know anyone besides her husband and his loved ones.

During the tea party, Gravillis posed one compelling question to the group that signaled to Animashaun that she was in the right place: "Where do you feel like you need support right now in your life?"

"I got a little bit emotional because I needed a lot of support," she says. "It wasn't even that I only needed support in my career, but mentally and even physically. I needed to know that I didn't sound crazy repeating these things to myself. You talk to your boyfriend, husband, your brother, but sometimes talking to a woman, it shifts your perspective on so many things.

"That first intimate [tea party] represented what I wanted — like what Michelle Obama says — my kitchen table to look like," the 27-year-old says. "These are women I definitely can learn something from." She's been to every tea party since and is now the communications manager for the nonprofit.

Jessa Williams, founder of a local intersectional women's surf collective called Intrsxtn Surf, says she enjoys going to the tea parties because she's been able to meet other entrepreneurial Black women who aren't just there to network for business purposes.

"People are actually going to try to get to know one another for real," says Williams, who attended the event at Malibu Farm. "It's a welcoming energy. It's a loving energy."

Mia Jenkins of Koreatown says she didn't realize that she needed a community like Tea Party 4 Black Girls until she went to her first event last year.

"I feel like the dialogue between everybody is very fluid," says Jenkins, 25, who runs a jewelry brand called Archive 020, adding that she always leaves the tea parties feeling "fulfilled." "I've met so many girls who have their own businesses [and] are creative, and I've been able to connect with them in that way."

She adds, "Every time I've been to an event, I'm more and more comfortable with starting conversation with people that I don't know, and it's also carried into other areas of my life, so that's been a great payoff for me."

Many of the tea party guests have been between the ages of 18 and 35, but Gravillis says she's been exploring ways to get other age groups involved. In the coming months, the nonprofit will launch a new event series in which it will partner with local creatives to host activities such as cooking, beading, crocheting and reading.

Gravillis says her dream is to have a house where Tea Party 4 Black Girls can host events regularly, and to eventually build wellness centers around L.A. that would have a "pay-what-you-can" model to make them accessible. Sometimes the nonprofit offers Uber discount codes and parking vouchers for its invite-only events to alleviate financial barriers.

By the end of the tea party the women, who started out mostly as strangers, were taking selfies together, following each other on Instagram and exchanging phone numbers. Gravillis cheerfully handed each of the guests Ikea-style reusable shopping bags brimming with products from brands that sponsor the nonprofit, including body oil, package-free body wash, rolling papers, socks and a candle.

She feels satisfied knowing that they left with more than the free products.

"I hope that everyone leaves just a little bit more at peace than how they came," she beams. "And I hope that everyone feels a little more loved than before they came, a little bit more seen, and more fed. I just hope everyone just feels taken care of."

She passionately adds, "We deserve to be taken care of."

‘Nothing stops the barbecue’

WHERE THERE’S SMOKE THERE’S FIRE, AND QUITE POSSIBLY ARMENIAN SKEWERS ON THE GRILL. GARNI MEAT MARKET FOUNDER ALEX KHACHOYAN AND HIS FAMILY SHARE THEIR RECIPE FOR LIFE.

Photographs by LIANA GRIGORYAN For The Times

BY JENN HARRIS

WITHOUT MEAT, I don’t have a life.” ¶ Alex Khachoyan, 64, is layering chunks of orange-tinged chicken breast onto metal skewers in the backyard of his Pasadena home. He deftly works the meat onto each spear without looking, a muscle memory he’s developed over decades of cooking for family, friends and customers. ¶ “I’m eating barbecue almost every day,” he continues. ¶ Grilling with his family is a weekly ritual for Khachoyan, who runs Garni Meat Market on a stretch of Washington Boulevard in Pasadena known as Little Armenia. Following advice from his doctor, he left his job as an auto body painter to open the butcher shop nearly 30 years ago. Now, he works alongside his son Harout, 28.

The shop is named for the village in Armenia and the Garni temple, believed to have been built around AD 77. It’s also an homage to the memory of a late friend who lived there.

“And my mom said Garni is a nice name,” he says.

It’s just after noon on a recent Monday, and Alex and Harout are working together to prepare a meal for family and friends.

“We grill at least once a week, if not more,” says Harout, dousing a mound of coals in a grill with lighter fluid. “In the summertime, it’s a lot more. But we grill even if it’s raining. Nothing stops the barbecue.”

He uses a match to set the coals ablaze in a grill outfitted with a shallow, wide bed and slits along the edges designed to hold skewers. They call it an “Armenian” grill, and for $185 at the shop, you can have one too.

“You call somebody and say we’re doing *khorovats,* which means we’re grilling,” says Harout. “It’s an Armenian thing. That’s a sign to come over. It’s a family event and it’s really important to my culture.”

On a table nearby, Alex continues to skewer the day’s lunch, a selection of proteins prepared at the shop: filet mignon in a dry marinade of black pepper, paprika, Aleppo pepper and onions; pork chops and squares of pork belly heavily seasoned with salt, black pepper and Aleppo pepper; lemon pepper chicken wings; ground lamb studded with sweet onion; and chicken breast marinated in yogurt and mayonnaise, fresh garlic, paprika and salt.

Alex and Harout make 14 marinades for the shop, displayed in a glass case that runs the length of the store. In addition to the marinated meats, there are Tomahawk steaks, the dry, spicy sausage sujuk Alex makes himself and a selection of dips and spreads including hummus, Alex’s own yogurt, ajika and jajuk.

They’ve brought a little bit of everything home with them for lunch. Alex’s wife, Tina, 63, is in the kitchen making rice pilaf, and Harout’s wife, Karen, 27, is nearby scooping the various dips into bowls alongside Tina’s homemade pickles and salads.

Harout tends to the fire, using a hair dryer attached to a long extension cord to hurry the coals toward white-hot. He sticks a bare hand into the grill to move a piece from the outer rim to the middle.

Next, Alex skewers green peppers, eggplant and tomato. The vegetables are the first on the grill.

“Without these vegetables, we don’t eat the barbecue,” he says. “We roast them, pull the skin off, chop it up, then add cilantro, parsley, garlic, onion, olive oil and salt to make a salad.”

As soon as the vegetables are removed, the grill is filled with meat. The skewers are packed in close but never touching. Harout draws from a stack of dried grape vines underneath the grill and adds them to the fire. Throughout the year, they cut the vines growing off the side of the house and save them to use while grilling. During walnut season, they throw in the walnut shells.

“It’s more tasty,” Alex says. “It adds more flavor.”

It also enlivens the smoke, now sweeping and falling from the grill in thick gray clouds. Even from across the backyard, you can taste the smoke on the wind.

“I making this,” Alex says, proudly pointing to a long cylinder that holds dozens of metal skewers. It looks like a quiver, made from a sewer pipe he closed off at one end and a handle fashioned from a damaged piece of car molding.

“I making the car. I making the home. I making everything,” he says, his woolly mustache twitching as he laughs.

He also made the metal skewers, using a vise to twist the metal to create handles at the ends. He calls them Armenian swords.

When it’s time for the ground lamb, Harout keeps a close eye on the meat, hand-pressed into cigar-like patties along the skewers.

“You have to keep rotating them so they don’t fall off and cook on both sides,” he says.

While about half of Garni’s customers have their proteins grilled at the store, many buy the marinated meat and rely on the Khachoyans for grilling tips to cook at home. The family is adamant about the use of a charcoal grill, but they’ll offer instructions for alternative forms of grilling, baking or pan-frying.

A little more than a year ago, the family started offering plates of grilled meat, rice and vegetables that you can eat on the patio out front.

As the meat nears ready, Harout rips open a package of mottled lavash and slides out a flat piece of bread about 3 feet long. He tears off a piece and uses it as a makeshift glove to remove a piece of pork belly from a skewer. He nonchalantly pops the steaming piece of meat into his mouth, oblivious to the heat.

He then offers a piece to a friend he’s invited over for lunch, who seems to appear out of thin air as soon as the meat is ready.

“Usually we’re really full before we even get to the table,” Harout says, still chewing. “We will be picking at the meat while we grill.”

He layers some serving dishes with bread, then continues to remove the meat from the skewers, piling the pork, chicken, lamb and beef over the lavash. The family takes turns bringing the meat to a table on the side of the house, already full of pickles, salads, spreads and wine glasses. There’s also an ice-cold bottle of vodka and empty shot glasses waiting.

The platters are passed around the table, with everyone choosing their favorite cuts. Harout prompts his father to take the “good piece” of pork chop, the one with a nice rim of fat caramelized around the bone.

Alex makes himself a bite of food with a piece of torn bread, pork and a scoop of his grilled vegetable salad.

“Armenian people don’t eat barbecue with a fork and knife,” he says. “They eat with hands. You taste it more.”

The filet mignon is impossibly tender, almost melting into the lavash beneath. The chicken is vibrant with Aleppo pepper, springy but still moist. The pork chop bones are excavated for every last morsel of meat. The luleh kebab, full of onion and paprika-infused juices running wild, is the first to disappear.

Wine is sipped. Vodka is shot back. The platters of food slowly diminish as the conversation becomes more lively, everyone more animated and a little glassy-eyed.

It’s a scene that plays out in countless Garni customers’ homes and backyards, fueled by the Khachoyans’ marinated kebabs.

“Having the shop makes us feel like you’re providing a service, but it’s something more than that to the families coming in,” Harout says. “We’re part of a very tight-knit Armenian community, and sometimes, our store gets to be at the center of it. ”

ALEX KHACHOYAN, top right, and son Harout man the grill at their Pasadena home, where they can often be found grilling marinated meat on skewers served with lavash. Alex, founder of Little Armenia’s Garni Meat Market, and wife Tina, below, prepare a plate.

Where to buy meat for grilling

Garni Meat Market,
1715 E. Washington Blvd.,
Pasadena, (626) 798-2676

sunbrella®
Outdoor All Weather Fabrics
Exclusive Designs
Largest Selection Anywhere!
Est. 1956
F&S
Fabrics
10654 W. Pico Bl. West Los Angeles
310-441-2477
fsfabricslosangeles.com

Photographs by Carlos Jaramillo For The Times

Fingerling and Raja Tacos

1 hour 30 minutes. Serves 12.

Potatoes are probably the last thing you would have thought to throw on the grill, but imparting a bit of smoke to papas is a nice way to mix up this Mexican classic, beloved by everyone. Adding roasted poblano strips and shaved sweet corn contributes heat and sweetness. This taco is also substantial enough to be a main course for vegetarians at an asada. Going heavy on the crema and grated queso makes this taco all the better. — Bricia Lopez

120	milliliters (½ cup) extra-virgin olive oil
1	teaspoon onion powder
1	teaspoon garlic powder
1	teaspoon plus 1 tablespoon sea salt, plus more as needed
½	teaspoon dried parsley
½	teaspoon dried oregano
½	teaspoon ground mustard
½	teaspoon dried marjoram
	Juice of 1 lemon plus half its zest
680	grams (1½ pounds) fingerling potatoes
1	large ear of corn
3	medium (10½ ounces/300 grams) poblano chiles
	Corn tortillas (preferably homemade)
480	milliliters (2 cups) peanut oil
	Grated queso enchilado and Mexican or Salvadoran crema, for garnish

1 Preheat your grill to 375°F (190°C) if using a pellet grill, to low heat if using gas, or for indirect cooking if using charcoal, with the lid closed, for 15 minutes. In a large bowl, mix together the olive oil, onion powder, garlic powder, 1 teaspoon of salt, parsley, oregano, mustard, marjoram and lemon juice and zest until thoroughly combined. Add the potatoes and mix well to coat.

2 Gently place the potatoes directly on the grill, alongside the ear of corn and poblanos. Reserve half the marinade in the bowl. Close the lid and allow the vegetables to cook until tender, about 20 minutes, making sure to flip them every once in a while to avoid burning.

3 Once the chiles and corn are evenly charred, after about 20 minutes, remove them from the grill. Put the chiles in a medium-size bowl and cover with a large plate for a few minutes to soften and steam them. This will make peeling off the burnt skin easier. When cool enough to handle, remove most of the skin from the chiles with your fingers. Remove and discard the seeds and stem and roughly chop the flesh. Remove the corn kernels by standing the cob upright and carefully shaving the kernels off from top to bottom using a chef's knife. Rotate the cob to make sure to shave all sides of the corn.

4 Once the potatoes are charred and tender, about 25 minutes, add them to a large bowl with the remaining 1 tablespoon salt, the roughly chopped poblanos and the corn kernels. Smash everything with a potato masher until all the ingredients are smashed together in a chunky purée.

5 Heat a large cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Working in batches, warm the tortillas for about one minute on each side so they soften. Remove them to a plate.

6 On a large cutting board, scoop about 2 tablespoons of the potato and poblano mixture onto each tortilla. Fold the tacos in half and set aside. Line a cooling rack with paper towels.

7 Heat the peanut oil in a cast-iron skillet over high heat. Test the oil for frying by dropping a small piece of tortilla in the middle; it should bubble up. Once the peanut oil is ready, using kitchen tongs, carefully (trying not to splash oil) drop in two or three tacos at a time, depending on the size of your skillet; be careful not to overcrowd the pan. Fry the tacos for about three minutes on each side, until crispy.

8 Remove each taco carefully using kitchen tongs and place them on a cooling rack. Sprinkle with more salt. When cool enough to handle, top with the grated queso enchilado and crema and serve.

Excerpted from "Asada: The Art of Mexican-Style Grilling" by Bricia Lopez with Javier Cabral (Harry N. Abrams, 2023).

Arrachera Verde

45 minutes plus marinating time. Serves 6 to 8.

Quick marinades can save your life when making carne asada. This one breaks down meat in about 30 minutes and is inspired by chimichurri — except much spicier. — Bricia Lopez

40	grams (1 cup) loosely packed fresh basil (leaves and tender stems)
25	grams (½ cup) loosely packed fresh mint (leaves and tender stems)
25	grams (½ cup) loosely packed fresh parsley (leaves and tender stems)
¼	cup fresh oregano leaves
2	Fresno chiles
3	large cloves garlic, peeled
	Zest and juice of 1 lemon (about ¼ cup/60 ml.)
60	milliliters (¼ cup) olive oil
1	teaspoon citrus vinegar
2	tablespoons sea salt
910	grams (2 pounds) flap steak
	Warm tortillas (preferably homemade), for serving

1 In a food processor, add the basil, mint, parsley, oregano, chiles, garlic, lemon zest and juice, olive oil, vinegar and salt. Pulse until a smooth paste forms. Pat the steak dry with paper towels and place in a large bowl. Rub the paste mixture all over the meat.

2 Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes or overnight.

3 Remove the meat from the refrigerator to allow it to reach room temperature before grilling, if possible. Start a charcoal or gas grill. The gas should be set to high. If using a pellet grill, preheat your grill to 450°F (230°C) for at least 15 minutes. If using charcoal, the coals should be red but entirely covered with gray ash. Remove the meat from the marinade and put it on the grill directly over the fire. Close the lid and cook, turning once, about four to five minutes on each side. Transfer the meat to a cutting board and let rest for five minutes.

4 Slice the meat against the grain. Serve with warm tortillas and the salsa.

Adapted from "Asada: The Art of Mexican-Style Grilling" by Bricia Lopez with Javier Cabral (Harry N. Abrams, 2023).

Blended Guacamole

25 minutes. Makes 2 cups.

Guacamole is carne asada's best friend. This variation is inspired by the one served in my family's restaurant and my mother's love for oregano. We don't use tomato because it can make guacamole watery. The base is blended first; then add the avocado. This creates a more uniform and versatile texture that can be universally enjoyed in a taco, with our Cheese and Chicharrón Board, with grilled seafood, or anything really. We never shy away from chile or lime juice. If your blender has trouble blending everything, add a bit of water to help it get started. — Bricia Lopez

6	tablespoons fresh lime juice
1	teaspoon sea salt
1	cup fresh cilantro
1	serrano chile, stem removed
¼	teaspoon dried oregano
3	avocados, pitted and peeled

1 Put the lime juice, salt, cilantro, chile and oregano in a blender and blend until smooth. In a large mixing bowl, mash the avocados and pour the lime juice mixture over the top. Mix until everything is well combined. Serve with totopos (tortilla chips).

Excerpted from "Asada: The Art of Mexican-Style Grilling" by Bricia Lopez with Javier Cabral (Harry N. Abrams, 2023).

Photographs by CARLOS JARAMILLO For The Times

‘AN INVISIBLE CLOUD OF JOY’

GUELAGUETZA’S BRICIA LOPEZ SAYS AN ASADA REPRESENTS MORE THAN JUST MEAT — ‘IT’S THE COMMUNITY YOU’VE BUILT.’

BY LAURIE OCHOA

MANY PEOPLE HEAR the word “asada” and think carne asada tacos or burritos, or carne asada plates with rice and beans at their favorite home-style Mexican restaurant. But Bricia Lopez and Javiar Cabral, along with countless other Angelenos, know that asada transcends the confines of a taco. ¶ In “backyards across Southern California, an asada represents more than just meat,” the two say in the introduction to Lopez’s recently published book, “Asada: The Art of Mexican-Style Grilling.” “It means family, friends, memories, great music, cold drinks, good times and the community you’ve built — all centered on the promise of juicy grilled meat and … fixings that remind you of your upbringing.” Especially if your upbringing includes family barbecues in the public parks and backyards of Los Angeles. ¶ “The smell of asada,” write Lopez and Cabral, “is an invisible cloud of joy that forever lingers around the streets of Los Angeles.” ¶ That cloud of joy, the scent of sizzling meat, sweet and tart from its marinade, is what welcomes the family and friends Lopez has gathered on a recent Saturday at L.A.’s Ernest E. Debs Regional Park for an afternoon asada.

Kids giggle inside a bounce house Lopez has set up, jumping almost in time to the thumping beats of music that provide the asada’s soundtrack. At one of the picnic tables, Lopez’s son has a chess game going as his mom tends the grill. Friends new and old arrive throughout the afternoon, grabbing just-made tacos — some with gorgeously charred meat, others with fingerling potatoes and rajas — and filling their plates from a table that holds a pot of meaty charro beans in broth, several salsas, guacamole, nopalitos (cactus paddles) and an arrangement of Oaxacan cheese and chicharrón, the crisp pork skin taking the place of crackers.

“We open the book with our chicharrón and cheese platter, which I think puts to shame any charcuterie board or butter board,” Lopez tells me when I interview her and Cabral at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books in April, “because Mexico has such an array of beautiful cheeses.”

Those cheeses often appear on the memelas, tlayudas, quesadillas and botana platters served at Guelaguetza, the Oaxacan restaurant (and winner of the 2021 L.A. Times Gold Award) that Lopez runs in Los Angeles’ Koreatown with her siblings. What’s not on Guelaguetza’s Oaxaca-focused menu is a straight-up carne asada plate.

“Carne asada as a pastime in Mexico took off in the 1950s, specifically in the northern and northeastern regions of Sonora and Nuevo León,” Cabral and Lopez say in their book. Over time, the asada way of life took root in Los Angeles. As L.A. kids, both grew up with asada as integral parts of their childhoods, as important as Dodgers baseball.

The idea for the book, the pair’s second after 2019’s “Oaxaca: Home Cooking From the Heart of Mexico,” emerged in 2020, when the pandemic prevented Lopez from hosting her annual Fourth of July asada.

Most years, Lopez says, “My family comes over and we do the all fixings and meat and it’s just such a fun time. My husband gets incredible fireworks. It’s like Disneyland in my backyard with the best food. So when we couldn’t get together that year, my siblings asked me for the recipes. They wanted to do their own versions for their families. It was at that moment that I thought this is the book that I want to write — to capture the carne asada culture that L.A. is known for and that is second nature to Latinos and Mexicanos here in L.A. It’s so second-nature that we forget how special it is.”

For Cabral, who is editor of the food, culture and news site L.A. Taco, the asada idea felt exactly right. “I firmly believe that asada is the best taco out there. Sorry, al pastor! There’s just something primal about fire-grilled meat.”

One of the most appealing things about the meat that is the centerpiece of an asada is that, as Lopez and Cabral say in their book, it’s “beautifully unpretentious.”

Flap steak or ranchera — what Lopez calls the “king cut of carne asada” — is the most popular and affordable asada pick. But an asada can handle many kinds of meats, from skirt steak (or arrachera) to rib-eye, chicken, lamb, Spanish and Mexican chorizo, pork chops and even pricy Wagyu beef.

“I think this book coincides with the buying power of a lot of Latinos who are getting older and have a little more income,” Cabral says. “They want to buy nice meat. At L.A. Taco we did a rundown of carnicerías and found several that now specialize in prime-quality, Wagyu-quality meat.”

Of course, he adds, “you can buy any quality of meat and with the magic of one of our marinades you’ll have something great.”

“Listen,” Lopez says, “I love meat. I get down with everything. It’s not about elevating the meat; it’s a complimenting and having it shape shift to your taste buds. Someone might say, ‘How dare you put lime on your Wagyu.’ But I say, ‘I’m Mexican, I put lime and limón on everything, every day. Let me be.’ ”

Because as long as you have good friends and good food at an asada, almost anything goes.

BRICIA LOPEZ, top, hosts an asada at Ernest E. Debs Regional Park. Her niece Zixta Velazquez Lopez, 5, gets help filling her plate.

SCAN THIS QR CODE for even more recipes from Bricia Lopez and Javier Cabral’s “Asada: The Art of Mexican-Style Grilling.”

The flavors of grilling span the globe at these 3 Los Angeles parks

ON ANY SUMMER WEEKEND, SOCAL'S PUBLIC SPACES ARE FILLED WITH FAMILIES COOKING UP MULTICULTURAL FEASTS

BY DANIELLE DORSEY

JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

A GROUP of friends and family gathers for a birthday party barbecue at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, left, while elsewhere in the park, people grill Uyghur spiced beef, below, and chorizo, chicken, pompano fish and corn, above. Over in Elysian Park, a family cooks carne asada, center.

JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

SHELBY MOORE For The Times

SHELBY MOORE For The Times

RISING over grassy slopes and interrupting clear blue skies, silver plumes of smoke serve as welcome signals to friends and family arriving at the cookout. It's early, barely noon, but the grill masters are already at work, heads bowed over their charcoal shrines. This could be any backyard or any park in Southern California in 2023. To capture that, we decided to travel around the region and get a taste — and whiff — of how locals are grilling right now.

KENNETH HAHN STATE RECREATION AREA

Coming from the San Fernando Valley, Ronnie Yusico and his family arrived at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area at 9:30 a.m. to stake out a grill. There is no special occasion, save sunny weather and the presence of daughter Treszia, who is visiting from Portland, Ore. Yusico's other daughter plans to join after she finishes work. While Treszia and her mother lounge on a shady blanket with the family's three dogs, Ronnie hovers patiently over the grill, slowly turning speared links of chorizo and gingerly peeling back a foil oven to reveal pompano fish.

"He was cooking pork belly earlier, but it's already gone," Treszia explains apologetically.

Evelia Gutiérrez and her family are just getting started. It's her son Isaac's 17th birthday, and Evelia is charring vegetables for a salsa they will use for the carne asada later on.

A taco-shaped piñata sits idly on the picnic table. A short distance away, Isaac tosses a football with his brother. Like the tomatoes that hiss with each stroke of flame, excitement simmers over the still-calm scene. Evelia's husband and other family members are due to arrive later on. "It's still early," Evelia reminds us.

Zasia Ellerbee is expecting upward of 50 people for her 46th birthday party. It's her second year hosting at Kenneth Hahn, and she's prepared with yellow tablecloths, custom-printed cups and black and gold balloons.

Zasia's friend Aaron Garmon and his girlfriend, Ashlee Gordon, stand side by side, watching the grills. "This is just the first course," Garmon teases. He's flipping chicken wings and melting Colby cheese on turkey sliders, while trays of potato salad and barbecue jerk chicken sit on tables to further abate hunger. Later, ribs, shrimp, salmon and steak will round out the meal.

The crowds at Kenneth Hahn thin as you head deeper into the park, past the visitor center and up the hill to the viewpoint. The earthy-herbaceous scent of cumin- and rosemary-tinged meat hangs richly in the air. A young man and woman lean over an open grill, studying pieces of sizzling sirloin. They're shy to speak, not wanting this meal to represent them to the public.

"It's too much smoke," the woman demurs. "We're Uyghur, so that's what this is based on, but we messed up."

A group of friends has secured a prime location on a lush plateau that features a clear view of the downtown skyline. A bag of charcoal sits unopened next to the grill; everyone is focused on unwrapping the 5-foot-long sandwich with 40-hour fermented bread that's "similar to fougasse," according to Dean Kim, executive artisan baker of OC Baking Company, who is behind the impressive loaf.

Slabs of the stacked sub are sliced off and handed out just as another friend arrives with a pot of gumbo.

WHITTIER NARROWS

If you've ever sat in traffic on the 60, you've likely noticed the picturesque Whittier Narrows, with rolling hills, fishing lakes, baseball and soccer fields, horse trails and picnic tables and grills, sprawling on either side of the interstate.

It's Memorial Day weekend, and Khin Win and her family are here to celebrate the matriarch's 70th birthday. Originally from Myanmar, the family now lives in nearby Temple City. The multigenerational group sits on a blanket around a pot of malarshankaw, a stir-fry with vegetables, fried chicken and rice, with Win sitting at the head.

On the banks of Legg Lake, Alex Castillo grills chicken, ranchera beef, sausage and corn on the cob, all marinated in Honduran flavors. Castillo's niece Giselle Castillo bites into elote covered in mayonnaise, butter and cheese.

ELYSIAN PARK

Across the city on a different day, Elysian Park is quiet as the Dodgers face an East Coast rival at Dodger Stadium. Groups are able to spread out, claiming clusters of picnic tables and clearing space for soccer and volleyball games.

After closing up shop at Tamales Alberto 2 in Echo Park off Sunset Boulevard, Samantha Mejia and her family head to the park almost every weekend for a casual carne asada. Samantha's husband, Francisco, is still at the restaurant, so she's at the pit flipping corn on the cob, strips of meat and scallions. Waiting on the table is a skillet with refried beans, a stack of tostadas and limes for easy grazing.

Elysian Park has limited grilling stations, so some parkgoers bring portable grills from home, while others lug steel pots filled with mole and freshly steamed tamales. An ice cream truck and raspado cart enjoy steady business all day.

All of these scenes are specific, but in L.A., our cookouts aren't catered to the masses. They pay respect to our culinary lineages, which, in this city of transplants, span the entire globe.

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

IN WHITTIER Narrows, a family originally from Myanmar celebrates matriarch Khin Win, left center, while Giselle Castillo eats elote, above.

EMBRACE THE RETURN OF THE VEGGIE BURGER

BY BEN MIMS

IT'S FINALLY GRILLING SEASON and with it comes backyard barbecues, asadas in parks around the city and picnics of hot dogs under the shade of trees. The sounds of sizzling burgers and brats and steaks and half-chickens on the grill, along with the smells of charcoal smoke mingling with various rubs and spices in the air — it's the best time of the year to eat. And while I'm a vocal advocate for meat grilling, this year it's time to switch it up a bit and focus on veggies. I'm not talking about those piles of insipid grilled zucchini, peppers and mushrooms that everyone feels compelled to present alongside the ribs and steaks. I'm talking about vegetables in a place where they get to be the center of attention: veggie burgers. ¶ Remember those? The ones made with real vegetables and not fake meat? Though some might consider them an afterthought, they've crept back into the public consciousness in the past couple of years, almost as a reaction against the Impossible and Beyond Meat burgers that have dominated plant-based eating, especially at fast-food spots. Even with the popular embrace of veganism across the country, veggie burgers have, for some reason, skirted that embrace; but no more.

Veggie burgers are a thing of hippie beauty. They hew to the American mainstream in form while retaining their against-the-grain charm, running counterculture to the omnipresence of beef burgers in our country. They're disestablishmentarian in nature; punk, if you will.

Meat substitutes like Impossible and Beyond Meat gave carnivores a dupe for their beloved beef burgers. Those products allowed beef eaters to engage in their carnivorous fantasies while simultaneously feeling virtuous or "healthy," though the substitutes are processed and contain sodium and saturated fat, so the health differences might be negligible. Veggie burgers, on the other hand, aren't a fantasy. They announce themselves proudly and force you to choose a side; you're either for them or against them.

As someone who has different burger moods, I've loved the modern option to have a beef burger, a fake-meat burger or a veggie burger all on the same menu. But the novelty of fake-meat burgers, at least for me, has worn off (I'm fine with them being there for those who want them, but I'll never choose them). Veggie burgers, though, are not just one type and have an expanding palette of textures, ingredients and flavors. If you like shredded vegetables but hate beans, there's a veggie burger for that. If you're a mushroom abstainer, you don't have to choose that portobello cap; you can have a burger packed with chickpeas and greens instead.

This renewed love of veggie burgers was spurred on by the re-release of Lukas Volger's cookbook "Veggie Burgers Every Which Way: Fresh, Flavorful, & Healthy Plant-Based Burgers," which was originally published in 2010. In the book, Volger, who ran a veggie-burger business for about four years, provides all the tips and insights you need to make veggie burgers that live up to the hype or, better yet, expand your thinking on what a veggie burger can be.

The types of burgers run the gamut from bean- and grain-based burgers to those made with 100% vegetables (my favorite kind), and even those made with tofu, seitan and tempeh, fulfilling a niche love for those who adore the firmer texture they provide. But lest you think the book is just veggie patties that you swap out for beef ones in your regular store-bought buns, Vulgar refreshingly goes the extra mile to extend his ethos to buns, sides and condiments that create a fully realized world of veggie burgers.

Two of his recipes show this off best, and I haven't stopped making them for months. One is full of two of my favorite vegetables, cabbage and sweet potato. The vegetables are shredded and mixed with caramelized onions, toasted sesame oil and tahini, which give them a distinctive flavor that's brilliantly lifted with fresh lemon juice and a pinch of cayenne. An egg and a little bit of breadcrumbs help bind everything together to form patties that aren't that dissimilar to potato latkes — crisp and lacy on the edges, soft and tender in the center. Placed on a bun with some yogurt, sprouts and cucumbers, it's an oddly refreshing burger for summer that doesn't weigh you down like beef.

And for those proteinheads who prefer bean-based burgers, I've loved making Volger's spinach and chickpea burgers. Spinach gets cooked in olive oil with toasted ground cumin so the spice perfumes the leaves with its heady aroma — I've tried these with Swiss chard and baby kale in place of the spinach, and they work equally well. The greens are then minced and mixed with chickpeas — you can use homemade or canned — and blended with eggs and chickpea flour, which keeps the burgers gluten-free. And while Volger's suggestion to dress these up with classic burger toppings like lettuce, tomato and mustard works excellently, I've also found that crumbled feta and some thin slices of jalapeño or serrano chile work well and complement the Mediterranean flavor profile of the burgers.

One of the criticisms of veggie burgers can be that they're sometimes difficult to work with. And there is one thing to keep in mind if you're a first-timer working with them: They are, indeed, softer than ground-meat burgers. But Volger also addresses this in the book and gives plenty of tips for handling the burgers, particularly when to lean *into* their softness — which preserves their moisture — by precooking them in a skillet so they firm up before trying to place them on a grill. I actually think veggie burgers are even better for summer grilling precisely because they can be made and cooked a couple of days in advance, so all you have to do is reheat them on the grill to imbue them with those characteristic marks and a little smoky goodness.

So this summer, don't be afraid to pull up to the barbecue or grill with a tray of veggie burgers, but ones that you made with intention and care, not something from a freezer. Volger's recipes will set you up for success and offer so many options that you'll have no problem finding a burger, or two or three, that everyone can get behind. Or better yet, host your own veggie burger grilling party to show the lovers, haters and the agnostic among us just how exciting and delicious real veggie burgers can be when the focus isn't on replacing meat but celebrating vegetables in all their fresh, hearty and texturally diverse splendor.

JOSH SCHAEDEL For The Times

Sesame Sweet Potato and Cabbage Burgers

1 hour. Makes four 4-inch burgers.

This is a veggie burger I've always loved for its unexpected richness, thanks to the combination of sweet browned onions, sesame oil and tahini. It's worthwhile to cook the onions with some care to allow them to caramelize and become sweet. And any variety of sweet potato will work — the purple ones lend a distinctive color. Serve with yogurt, or simply drizzled with tahini, and crisp vegetables like cucumber slices, sprouts or lettuce. — LUKAS VOLGER

4	tablespoons olive oil
1	large or 2 small onions, chopped
	Scant ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
1	tablespoon toasted sesame oil
1	medium sweet potato, coarsely grated
178	grams (2 cups) finely shredded cabbage
1	teaspoon Diamond Crystal kosher salt
1	large egg
1	tablespoon tahini
	Juice of 1 lemon
15	grams (¼ cup) panko or coarse breadcrumbs, plus more if needed

1 Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in your widest skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion and cayenne and fry until soft and beginning to color deeply, 10 to 12 minutes. Add the sesame oil, followed by the sweet potato, cabbage and salt. Cover and cook until tender, stirring periodically, about 10 minutes. Allow to cool slightly.

2 Whisk together the egg, tahini and lemon juice until combined. Add the potato-cabbage mixture, then fold in the panko. Add additional breadcrumbs if the mixture seems loose, but err on the side of wet because the burgers will firm up in the oven. Shape into 4 patties.

3 To cook, warm a wide skillet over medium heat, then add the remaining oil. Add as many burgers as will fit comfortably without crowding the pan (usually 3 burgers will fit into a 10-inch/25-centimeter skillet), and cook until browned and crisped on the bottom, five to seven minutes, then flip and repeat on the other side. The burgers will firm up a bit as they cook, and further once they're removed from the heat and have cooled slightly. Serve warm.

4 If you want to grill the burgers, cook the burgers in a cast-iron skillet placed on the grill grate over direct heat on a charcoal or gas grill. This will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes total, depending on the strength of your grill. If you want grill marks, place the burgers directly over the grill grates once they've firmed up. Serve warm.

Recipe from Lukas Volger's "Veggie Burgers Every Which Way, Second Edition: Fresh, Flavorful, and Healthy Plant-Based Burgers — Plus Toppings, Sides, Buns, and More." Reprinted by permission of the Experiment, *theexperimentpublishing.com*

Spinach-Chickpea Burgers

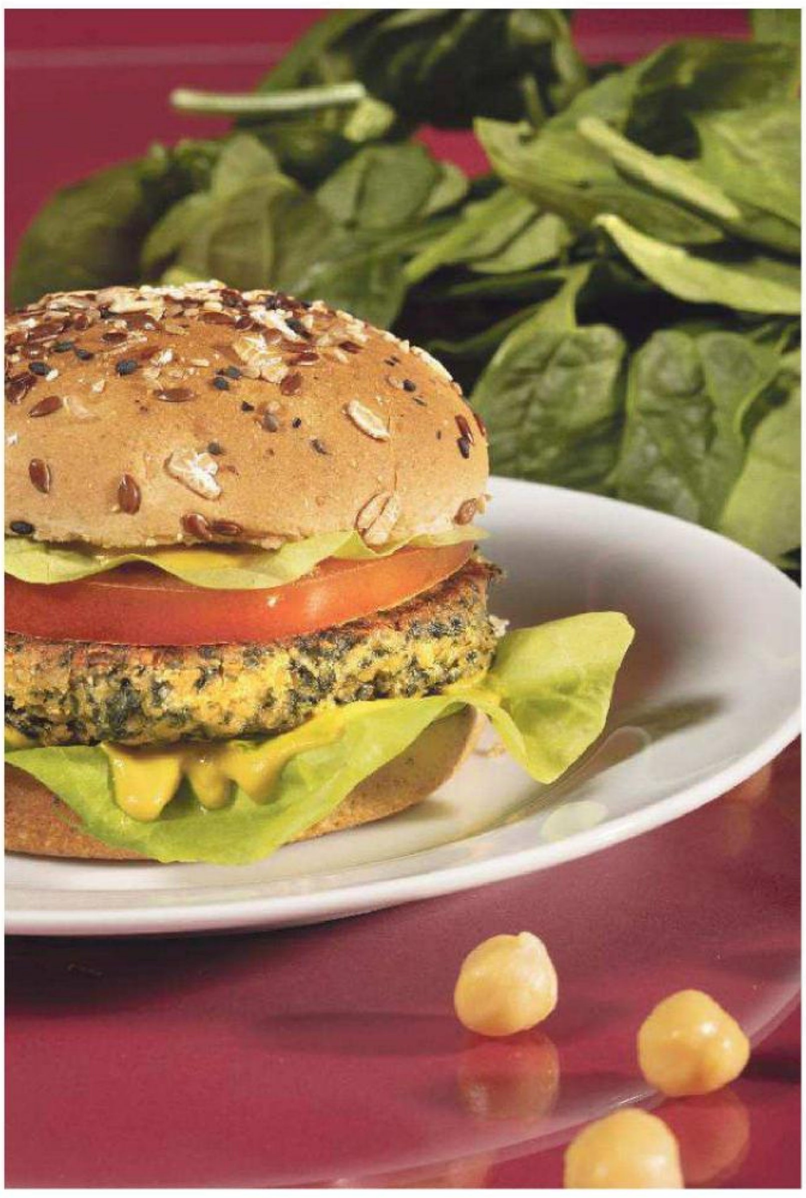
1 hour. Makes five 4-inch burgers.

This veggie burger features so many of my favorite things in a veggie burger: hearty chickpeas, fortifying spinach, a hint of nutty toasted cumin seeds and a final finish of fresh lemon. It's also very easy. As with most burgers in this book, be sure to add the beans in two stages to create texture in the finished burger. I like to serve them accompanied by traditional burger fixings: lettuce, tomato and mustard. — LUKAS VOLGER

2	tablespoons everyday olive oil
1	teaspoon cumin seeds, toasted and ground
150	grams (5 ounces) fresh spinach
255	grams (1½ cups) cooked chickpeas
2	large eggs
	Juice of ½ lemon
1	teaspoon Diamond Crystal kosher salt
30	grams (⅓ cup) chickpea flour, or more if needed

1 Heat 1 teaspoon of oil in a medium skillet over medium heat. Add the cumin and spinach and cook, tossing with tongs, until the spinach is completely wilted, two or three minutes. Transfer to a heat-safe plate and allow to cool until safe to handle. Drain if necessary; wrap in a towel and squeeze out as much liquid as possible. Chop finely.

2 In the bowl of a food processor, combine 1 ¼ cups (213 grams) of the chickpeas, the eggs, lemon juice and salt. Pulse until the mixture resembles a chunky hummus. Add the spinach, the remaining chickpeas and the chickpea flour, pulsing to combine but leaving some texture intact. The mixture should be sticky but somewhat pliable. If too wet, add more flour, 1 teaspoon at a time; if too dry, add a bit of water. Shape into 5 patties and let stand for at least 20 minutes (or up to a few hours in the refrigerator).



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A'S BBQ

Bill Addison Los Angeles Times

WHERE TO FIND THE BEST BARBECUE IN L.A. AND BEYOND

TEXAS, MEMPHIS, CAROLINA OR A HYBRID STYLE — FIND DELICIOUS SMOKED MEATS FROM DEVOTED PITMASTERS

BY BILL ADDISON AND DANIELLE DORSEY

ZEF BBQ

BARBECUE IS THE EPITOME of American food — a style of cooking, with myriad regional variations, built on Indigenous traditions, perfected over centuries (particularly, in Los Angeles, by Black cooks who arrived from the South during the Great Migration) and continuously evolving through immigrant influences and individual creativity. No one set of flavors will ever define our national palate, but a whole lot of us certainly take pleasure in the nexus of meat, fat, smoke, char, salt, pepper and, if you include sauce, sweetness and vinegary tang. ¶ Does L.A. have a modern barbecue style? Contemporary pitmasters stand on the shoulders of forerunners like Woody Phillips, a Louisiana native who opened his first restaurant, Woody's Bar-B-Que, in Hyde Park in 1975. In the new millennium, the outsize popularity of central Texas-style smoked meats, led by Austin's Aaron Franklin, has deeply influenced the American palate, including ours: Brisket is omnipresent, and many of the most ardent barbecue chefs began by refining their skills in their backyards. ¶ Having mastered the methodologies, though, the new generation of pros takes flavors in novel, successful directions that reflect Southern California and its fundamental communities, including Mexican, Korean and Southeast Asian. ¶ Our finest pitmasters these days don't often commit right away to restaurant leases, either. Enthusiasts keep track of them through pop-ups, Instagram posts and Smorgasburg events. These are a dozen of our very favorites, but if you love barbecue, stay alert: You never know when the next smoked-meat artists will make their way into your social media feeds.

A's BBQ

From under a tent set up for frequent pop-ups in his driveway, on a hilltop in East L.A. with a panoramic city view, Alan Cruz grafts Texas smoking traditions and Mexican flavors to his own inner tune. He has us all humming along with pork belly burnt ends rubbed with al pastor-style seasonings and paired with pineapple for tart-sweetness; spare ribs glazed with tamarind; sausage variations inspired by chile relleno or birria; and a textbook custardy brisket that needs nothing more than salt and copious black pepper. He follows his family recipe for cochinita pibil, which pairs with barbecue seamlessly. Lately Cruz has been experimenting with his cooking, holding pop-ups that center on fried chicken and New York-style chopped cheese. But he promises plenty of barbecue this summer. — *B.A.*

● *901 N. Hazard Ave., Los Angeles, eastlossoulbarbecue.com*

Beatdown BBQ

Jason Selva's East L.A. pop-up began in 2020. An instructor in mixed martial arts who previously worked in restaurants, he first sold barbecue as a fundraiser to help his students purchase gear. As demand continued, he's maintained a frequent pop-up schedule and also landed a gig as a barbecue vendor at the Coliseum. His mix is ideal for gatherings, with classic meats (brisket, pork ribs scented with pecan and cherry woods, pepper-crusted beef ribs) and sides of apple-cider coleslaw and potatoes given the mac-and-cheese treatment. Let's all lobby him to put his smoked birria de res in frequent rotation. — *B.A.*

● *1725 N. Eastern Ave., Los Angeles, (323) 401-4547, beatdownbbq.com*

Bludso's BBQ

You can't talk about barbecue in L.A. without talking about Bludso's. Pitmaster Kevin Bludso learned the craft from his aunt Willie Mae Fields, who ran a BBQ stand in Corsicana, Texas, and opened his first location in Compton in 2008. He's since become a global figure, appearing as a recurring judge of Netflix's "Barbecue Showdown" and, with Noah Galuten, publishing the James Beard Award-winning "Bludso's BBQ Cookbook." Although the original walk-up stand is no longer open, a La Brea location opened in 2013 with a bar, plenty of indoor seating, TVs that regularly stream live sports and a patio, and a Santa Monica outpost is coming soon. You can't go wrong with any of the meats that are, true to Texas style, smoked low and slow for 14 hours, but for first-timers, tender, fatty, juicy brisket is a must, as well as gargantuan and appropriately named Dinosaur beef ribs (running $29 each). Mac and cheese is gooey and creamy with baked-crisp corners; collard greens act as the perfect vinegary counterbalance; and cornbread is moist and not too dense, just how you want it. Mild and spicy barbecue sauce comes on the side for pouring over your selections. A full bar is available, including creative cocktails, draft beer and wines by the glass or bottle. — *D.D.*

● *609 N. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, (323) 931-2583, barandque.com*

WOODY'S BAR-B-QUE

Heritage Barbecue

Expect the future of barbecue in California to look and taste much like the cross-cultural connectivity that pitmaster Daniel Castillo is shaping in San Juan Capistrano. Castillo looked to central Texas for mastering technique — he perfumes meats over California white oak — but his smoky arts cast a wider spell as he's settled into his talents. Wood-perfumed brisket, beef ribs and chorizo links may share the menu with pastrami or pork belly glazed in the manner of char siu; specials often veer into riffs on Hawaiian loco moco and densely constructed banh mi. Same with sides: classic barbecue accompaniments such as jalapeño cornbread beans beefed up with brisket and guajillo chiles share the table with mac and cheese amped with bacon and charred asparagus. The array changes ceaselessly, but there is one constant at Heritage: the long line, which you'll encounter no matter the time or day. Castillo and his wife, Brenda, opened a brewery with barbecue-inspired dishes half an hour down the coast in Oceanside. It's nearly as mobbed as their flagship. — *B.A.*

● *31721 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, heritagecraftbbq.com*

Maple Block Meat Co.

My first experience with Maple Block Meat Co. happened during the dining room shutdowns of 2020, when I ordered takeout of barbecue essentials: peppery brisket, homemade sausage with the right snap, solid pulled pork, and sides of vinegary slaw and pintos textured with brisket bark. Returning recently for a meal in its handsome Culver City dining room, lined with varied knotty woods and white subway tile, I realized I hadn't before absorbed the true scope of its menu. Chopped and kale salads; pork shoulder lettuce wraps; sides of roasted beets and crème fraîche-gilded sweet potatoes; and drinks like a smoked old-fashioned stretch the notion of a barbecue restaurant and also dilute the focus. The good news: The core smoked meats, especially deftly rendered brisket, still impress, as do the lopsided but properly tangy buttermilk biscuits. — *B.A.*

● *3973 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, (310) 313-6328, mapleblockmeat.com*

Moo's Craft Barbecue

Ranked No. 7 on The Times' current list of the 101 Best Restaurants in Los Angles, Andrew and Michelle Muñoz's Lincoln Heights restaurant began as an underground pop-up in 2017. Business trips to Dallas over the last decade sparked Andrew's interest in smoking meats. In his East Los Angeles backyard, he taught himself to emulate the slowly blackened brisket, caked in coarse pepper and salt, that

BLUDSO'S BBQ

Jay L. Clendenin Los Angeles Times

HERITAGE BARBECUE

Bill Addison Los Angeles Times

Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

Francine Orr Los Angeles Times

epitomizes central Texas barbecue. Matched with Michelle's sides (creamy, punchy esquites; beans seasoned with stray bits of brisket) and the sausages she perfected using flavor boosts like roasted poblanos and queso Oaxaca, Moo's Craft Barbecue made a commotion. The restaurant, with a bar that focuses on local craft beers, opened in 2022. The line from the ordering counter usually stretches through the dining room and out the door.

Texas traditions lighted the fire, but Southern California inspires the couple's respectful innovations. They'll glaze pork belly burnt ends with gochujang as a special and pull lamb shoulder in ways that evoke Lebanese recipes; the thick, campfire-scented burgers have their own cult. The Muñozes set the tone for a new school of Los Angeles barbecue. — *B.A.*

● *2118 N. Broadway, Los Angeles, (323) 686-4133, mooscraftbarbecue.com*

MAPLE BLOCK MEAT CO.

Ricardo DeAratanha Los Angeles Times

MOO'S CRAFT BARBECUE

Jay L. Clendenin Los Angeles Times

Phillips Bar-B-Que

With locations in West Adams and Inglewood, Phillips is a long-running takeout stand from Foster Phillips (first cousin of Woody Phillips, who founded Woody's BBQ) that regularly draws lines on weekends, especially during the summer and on grilling holidays. Skip the wait and stop by for lunch, which offers reasonably priced "sandwiches" (i.e., a serving of meat with two slices of white bread on the side), including pork or beef ribs, chicken or beef links, rib tips, chicken or sliced beef, with a side of macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw or baked beans. I tend to go for the rib tips or sliced beef in the mixed barbecue sauce that balances sweetness with spice (mild and hot options also are available). Macaroni and cheese, greens and yams are available as additional sides. Ask if there's any cornbread, and if so, be sure to add it to your order. — *D.D.*

● *2619 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 731-4772, phillipsbar-b-que.com*

Ray's Texas BBQ

Ray's Texas BBQ founder Rene "Ray" Ramirez, an L.A.-area forerunner of the underground-sensation-to-bricks-and-mortar model, died in February 2022, but his family has upheld his standards of excellence. Ramirez's son Sebastian now oversees the brisket, glossy and suffused with oak smoke; it remains a standout. The massive, dense barbecue burrito — layered with mac and cheese, beans, brisket and jalapeño-cheddar sausage — is basically a handheld combo platter. The dining room is tiny, with several picnic-style tables abutting stacks of oak wood, but there's a sense of camaraderie to the communal seating, and this is the kind of feast best consumed as hot and fresh as possible. — *B.A.*

● *6038 Santa Fe Ave., Huntington Park, (310) 689-6353, 123brisket.com*

Smoke Queen Barbecue

Pitmasters with residencies at the Smorgasburg events on Sundays at Row DTLA tend to have some of the gathering's longest lines (and also often go on to great things; see Moo's Barbecue). The latest up-and-comer racing to keep up with demand is Winnie Yee-Lakhani, who found her highest calling after switching from running fast-casual franchises to barbecuing during the 2020 shutdowns. Yee-Lakhani marries exacting smoking techniques with her penchant for spice: pork belly made in the style of char siu with a caramelized varnish and scents of star anise; the musk of cumin heightening her brisket's peppered bark; a side of chile zapped with Sichuan peppercorns to evoke mapo tofu. Note the bottom of the menu signage when you reach the front of the line: Yee-Lakhani is planning to open her first location of Smoke Queen in Garden Grove. Can't wait. — *B.A.*

● *777 S. Alameda St., Los Angeles, smokequeenbbq.com*

The Memphis Grill

Chef-owner Manu Aka concedes to local tastes with inclusions of cuts like brisket and tri-tip on the menu of his North Hollywood storefront. Heed the name of his business, though, and home in on the Tennessee-style specialties. That really means three signatures: ribs that are either dry-rubbed or mopped with a not-too-sweet tomato-based sauce (a.k.a. "wet") and a pulled pork sandwich with slaw on top. What a joy to taste true-minded Memphis barbecue in Los Angeles. Cornmeal muffins on the side taste as if they're made from Jiffy mix — and in Southern circles that's a compliment. Complete the meal with greens and potato salad or candied yams. For now Aka and his small crew operate on weekends for takeout only; it's wise to order ahead. — *B.A.*

● *5759 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, (818) 738-9993, thememphisgrill.com*

Woody's Bar-B-Que

The most popular of Woody's Bar-B-Que's three locations is the one in Inglewood off Market Street with patio seating, but my favorite is the original outpost on West Slauson that was founded by Woody Phillips in 1975. Phillips died at 78 on New Year's Eve 2019, leaving his son Roderick Phillips and cousin Foster Phillips to continue the family barbecue legacy. The Inflation Fighter lunch special is hard to beat: tender pork rib tips and half a chicken link with a side of potato salad, macaroni salad or coleslaw for less than $10. I go for the potato salad, which has chunks of not-too-mushy potato and diced veggies for a satisfying crunch. If you're feeding a group, the small party platter offers one slab of beef or pork ribs, one pound of rib tips, half a pound of sliced beef, half a pound of links and half a chicken, with a pint of potato salad and baked beans, plus 10 slices of white bread, for $79.50. You can get your meats drenched in long-simmered mild, mixed or hot barbecue sauce — I recommend the mixed for heat that won't overwhelm. — *D.D.*

● *475 S. Market St., Inglewood, (310) 672-4200, woodysbarbquela.com*

Zef BBQ

Logan Sandoval pinballed around the country for years in various chef roles before pandemic-era circumstances brought him and his wife, Anna Lindsey, back to Simi Valley, where he grew up. Their takeout project was born from unprecedented times but continues to thrive as a weekly pop-up. Sandoval sometimes experiments with adding barbecue to out-of-context dishes like ramen or mole, but fundamentally he focuses on the most important thing: the craftsmanship of smoked meats. Beyond lush brisket and pulled pork (the latter even better brightened with South Carolina-style mustard sauce), zero in on his tri-tip smoked over red oak and finished with a garlic-butter baste. Hawaiian-inspired macaroni salad or a calorically overpowering take on mac and cheese with corkscrew pasta? Both, honestly, with banana pudding for dessert. Follow Zef BBQ on Instagram for weekly menus — ordering typically goes live on Wednesdays — and information for Simi Valley-area pickup locations. — *B.A.*

● *zefbbq.com*

QUICK BITES

More Michelin

> In advance of the Michelin Guide's annual update to its best restaurants in California, due out July 18, the international restaurant-scoring publication has added 10 names to the regional list. The additions are all denoted as "new" but could garner Michelin stars or other recognition in this year's guide. Playa del Rey's throwback-inspired seafood spot Dear Jane's is new to the guide, as is Cobi's in Santa Monica, which specializes in Southeast Asian curries, grilled meats and snacks. Other additions are Glassell Park's Dunsmoor, where regional and centuries-old American cooking techniques and recipes take center stage; Juliet, a new Parisian-inspired restaurant in Culver City; and two pop-ups turned bricks-and-mortar spots: Victor Villa's Villa's Tacos in Highland Park and the West Adams Italian restaurant Cento. Orange County is represented by Anaheim's Poppy & Seed, Fullerton's Kaori Sushi and Garden Grove's Taira Sushi & Sake. San Diego's Artifact at Mingei, within Balboa Park's Mingei International Museum, also made the list. *guide.michelin.com/us/en/california/restaurants*

Tiki revival

> One of Orange County's most iconic tiki bars has reopened under new ownership. The Royal Hawaiian, a Laguna Beach landmark from founders Francis Cabang and Harold "Hal" Hanna, first opened its doors in 1947 and was beloved for its potent cocktails, tropical drinks, flaming sundaes and blowfish lamps. The restaurant and bar changed hands in 2006 before closing in 2012. Boulevard Hospitality Group (Yamashiro, Durango Cantina) spent months painstakingly re-creating the bar's 1940s aesthetic. Now, the Royal Hawaiian is back in name and ambience with custom-carved Bumatay sculptures, original pieces from the first Royal Hawaiian and jade tiles, with the restoration overseen by Ignacio "Notch" Gonzalez. Bar director Dushan Zaric serves tiki icons such as Three Dots and a Dash, a Hurricane, a Zombie, a Singapore Sling and a Mai Tai, with some ingredients — such as the dragon's milk pandan-leaf syrup — made in-house. Chef Jaehee Lee (Yamashiro) heads the food program with iconic Polynesian dishes and items drawing on his Korean American heritage, among other cultures, for a menu that includes spam musubi; mochiko popcorn chicken with Korean pepper sauce; loco moco; Chamorro chicken-and-rice empanadas; and hamachi ceviche with calamansi and wonton chips. *331 N. Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, (949) 549-4354, royalhawaiianoc.com*

Say cheese!

> The Cheese Store of Beverly Hills is expanding to a new location next month, more than doubling the space and product of the original shop. Now owned by longtime employee Dominick DiBartolomeo, who purchased it from mentor Norbert Wabnig in 2022, the Cheese Store also will serve as a production facility for DiBartolomeo's Italian imports company, Domenico's Foods. The shop now offers more than 600 varieties of cheese along with wine, pantry items and select prepared foods. DiBartolomeo envisions more of it all in the new location, which is less than half a mile from the original. The new location will sell spirits in addition to wine and beer and offer an extensive menu of sandwiches, pastas, salads and other ready-to-eat items. *9705 Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, cheesestorebh.com*

— Stephanie Breijo

Brandon Ly Los Angeles Times

KINSEY GROSS For The Times

L.A. AFFAIRS

I stopped digging

OUR FIRST DATE WAS AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM. IT BEGAN A NEW ERA

BY KELSEY GOERES

I MET JUSTIN under dinosaur bones.

I'd been hearing about him for weeks. He was spending the summer with my best friend, Conor, while interning at the American Civil Liberties Union. They had grown up in Florida together playing Frisbee on golf courses at sunset.

The three of us decided to meet at L.A.'s Natural History Museum for a First Fridays event. Upon arriving I ordered a gin and tonic to soothe my perpetually-on-fire nervous system. I had cancer as a teenager, and 11 years after remission, my body had finally begun to process the trauma. Drinking helped even things out.

Justin was so handsome; broad, tall and gray-blue eyes like San Francisco fog. He really looked at you when you spoke. So many people in L.A. don't actually participate in the give-and-take of conversation. They wait for their turn to share their stuff in the air pockets of you talking. Justin's attention on me was almost startling.

I had sworn off relationships after breaking up with a boyfriend six months before. My anxiety was so bad. Almost daily, I convinced myself I was dying. I was hardly eating, barely sleeping, and socializing felt like running a marathon. My focus needed to be on my mental health. Plans for the summer included Griffith Park hikes in solitude, going to therapy like it was a college course my career depended on and soaking in tepid baths.

As we weaved through gleaming stones in the Gem and Mineral Hall, I learned Justin had an identical twin brother, that he's friends with his parents and that he felt called to help people.

In the Age of Mammals exhibit, multicolored lights moved in rhythm to a DJ mixing hip-hop and dance music. My spine softly vibrated each time Justin bent down to say something in my ear over the music. Something about the way the taxidermist positioned the tiger or the haunting lifelessness of its eyes. By this point, Conor had wandered off ahead us. I later learned he had told Justin before he arrived in L.A. that he was bound to fall in love with me.

As we meandered outside the museum, the reinvigorating night air whispering to me that Justin and I were alive at the same time — on the same planet that dinosaurs and woolly mammoths once roamed — I experienced an enchanting rush I'd never felt before. I knew we would know each other forever.

Justin and I were entangled, and in a million different lifetimes, it was always going to happen like this. It was during our spirited debate of who would win in a fight to the death — a Komodo dragon or a hippopotamus — that I knew this.

I realized something else that night. I could have fun, flirt and dance in front of a Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton to "Nice for What" all while anxious. Dealing with trauma can feel all-encompassing, but life keeps happening — even when your hand shakes as you squeeze the lime into your gin and tonic.

The next several weeks were filled with lots of what I'm sure looked like small moments from the outside but felt like cartoon symphonies on the inside — prolonged eye contact at a speakeasy downtown, touching hands at an improv show at Second City, dancing and kissing until 2 a.m. at the Surly Goat and then falling asleep instantly on an air mattress in Conor's kitchen. I felt anxiety coursing through my body like an electric current during all of these romantic snapshots. But looking back, none of that is what I remember the clearest.

Justin was so sweet to me all summer. I told him about having cancer as a teenager and how I woke up one morning in my late 20s fearful of my own body and how the trauma was manifesting in myriad strange ways that I didn't understand. He was patient, supportive and nonjudgmental. He treated me how I wished I could treat myself. Justin liked me just as I was.

A lot of people will tell you that you need to work on yourself before seeking out a relationship. That you need to be whole. But no one is ever fully, really whole. We still deserve good things even when we're hollow.

When fall came, it was time for Justin to go back to law school. We were in love, not knowing if our feelings would fade along with the summer — or if we were building something with meat on its bones.

The feelings did not fade. We texted each other throughout the day and talked on the phone at night. He'd send me podcast episodes on politics, and I'd send him poems to continue the process of learning about each other. We really enjoyed hearing how the other person thought about things and discovering the lens through which they viewed the world.

The first time I visited him in Boston, we held hands around the Harvard campus, picnicked at Boston Common and carried on our habit of making out in bars. I met his twin brother and his friends who, unsurprisingly, thought the world of him. And I fell deeper in love. By the end of the trip, we made things official.

We did long distance for two years and then moved in together in L.A. at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our home felt safe and happy amid a terrifying backdrop. Between my panic attacks, we would make tea and hold each other as the water boiled, only letting go when the baby-blue kettle let out the scream that was trapped inside all of us at that time. We played board games, cackled at old movies and talked. We did a lot of talking. I can talk with Justin like I can't talk with anyone else.

Today we live together in the Bay Area with a funny little cat named Lady. I still struggle with anxiety but I'm also in a tender, strong relationship — so strong I bet it could withstand a meteor.

> *The author is a writer and poet based in the Bay Area. She's on Instagram: @kelseytakes*

L.A. Affairs chronicles the search for romantic love in all its glorious expressions in the L.A. area, and we want to hear your true story. We pay $300 for a published essay. Email LAAffairs@latimes.com. You can find past columns at latimes.com/laaffairs.

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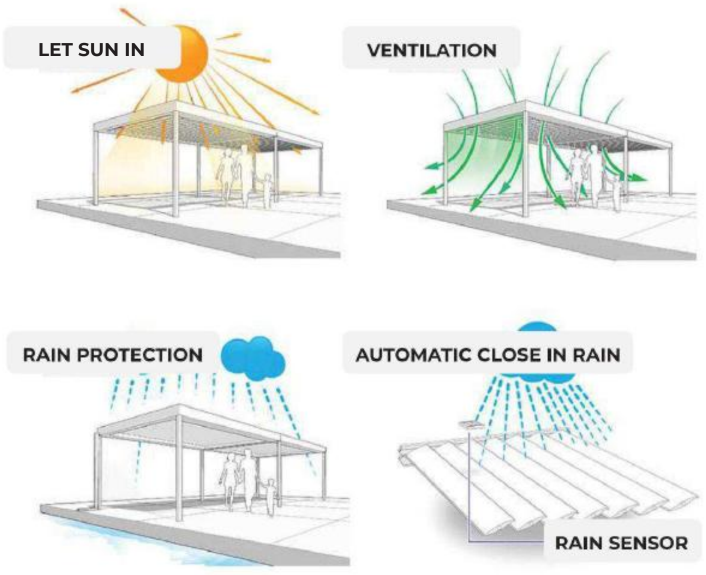

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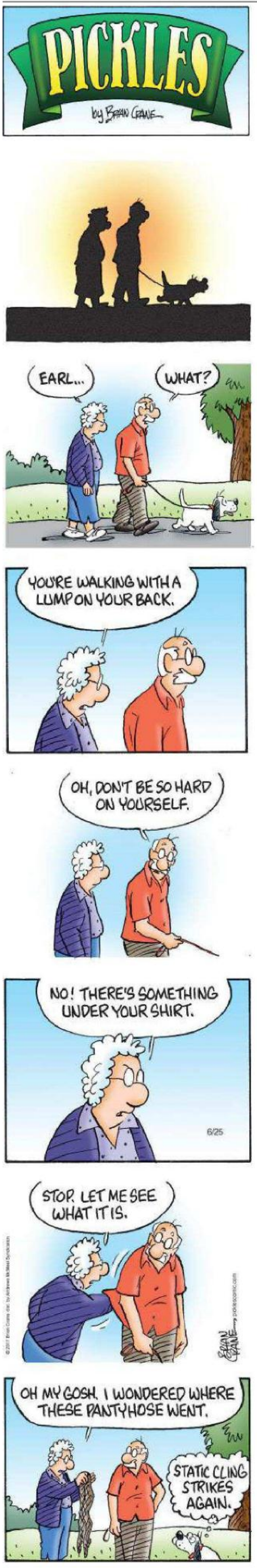
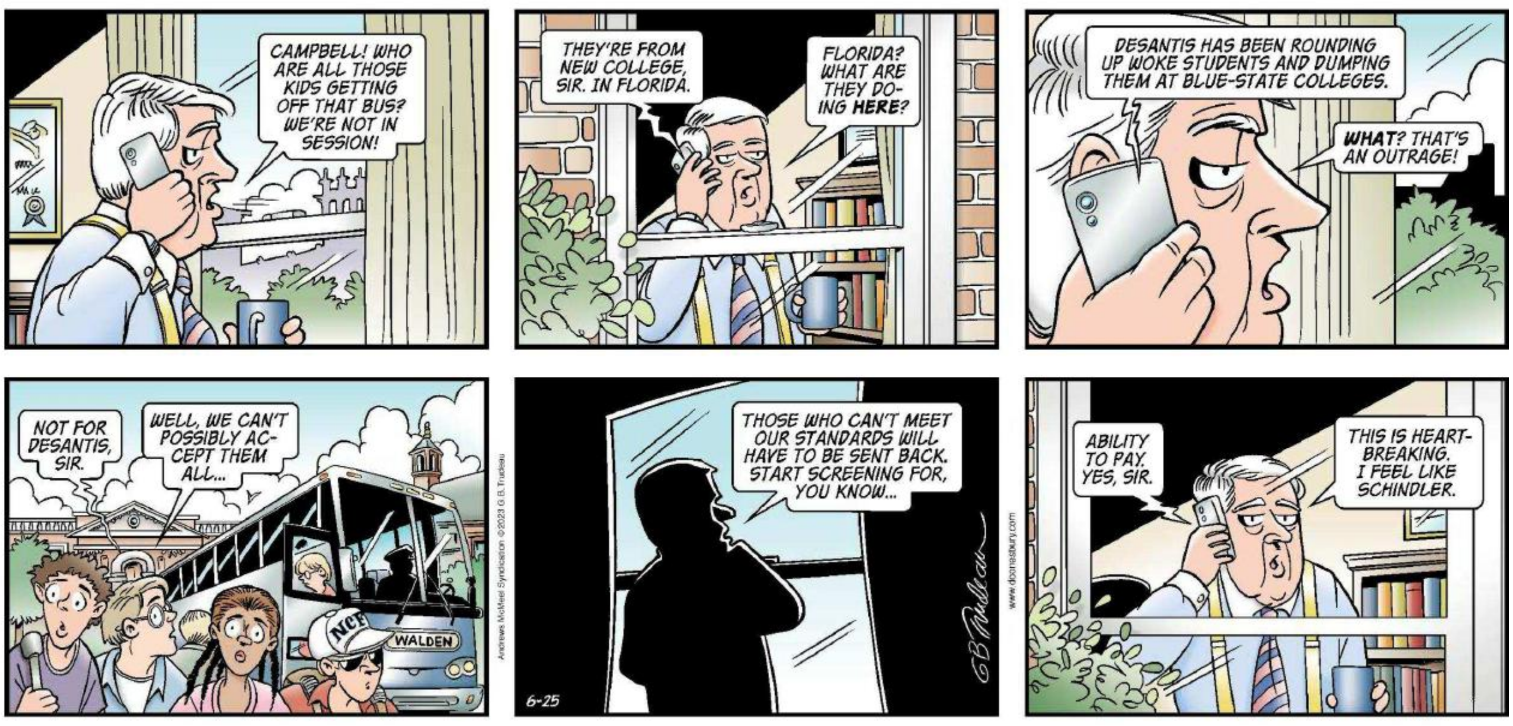
SUNDAY COMICS

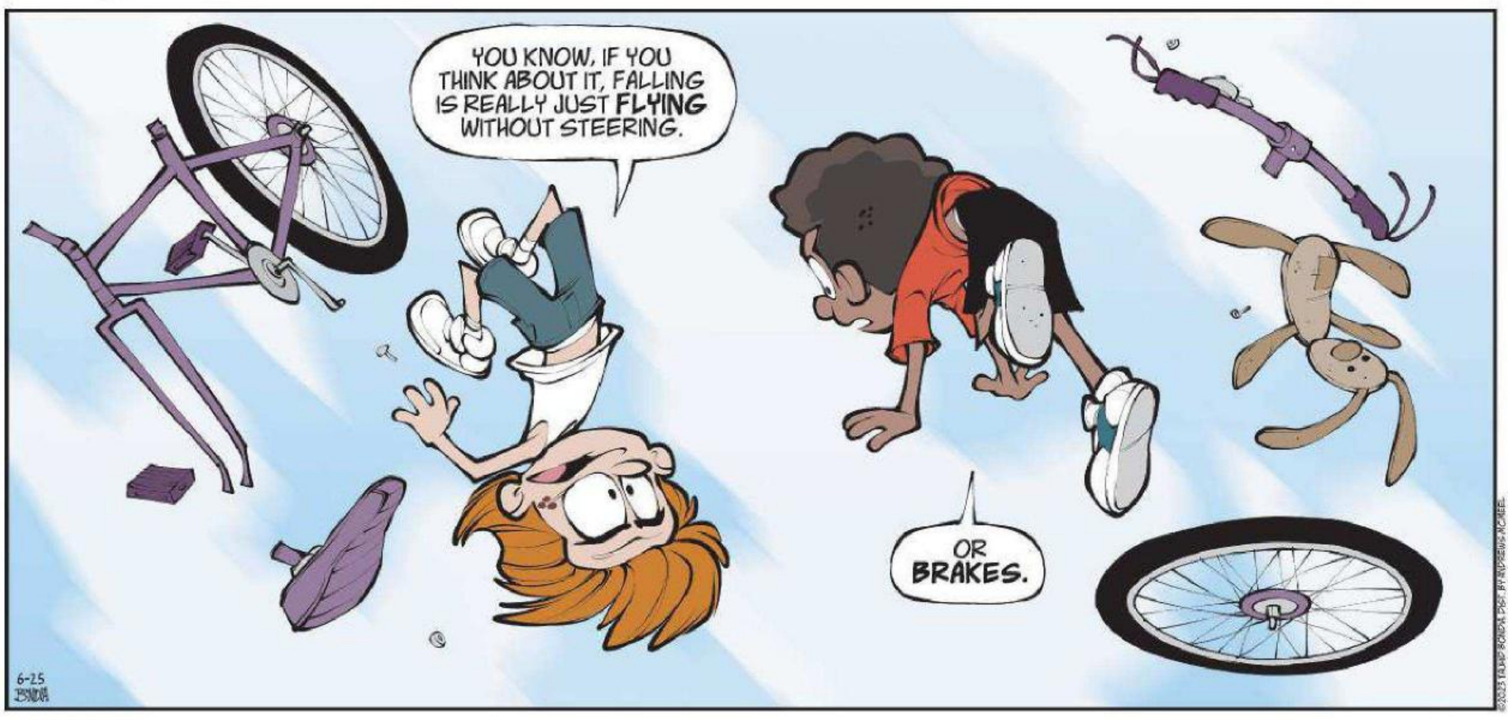
Los Angeles Times
JUNE 25, 2023


PICKLES
by Brian Crane
EARL...
WHAT?
YOU'RE WALKING WITH A LUMP ON YOUR BACK.
OH, DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF.
NO! THERE'S SOMETHING UNDER YOUR SHIRT.
6/25
STOP. LET ME SEE WHAT IT IS.
OH MY GOSH. I WONDERED WHERE THESE PANTYHOSE WENT.
STATIC CLING STRIKES AGAIN.
Brian Crane

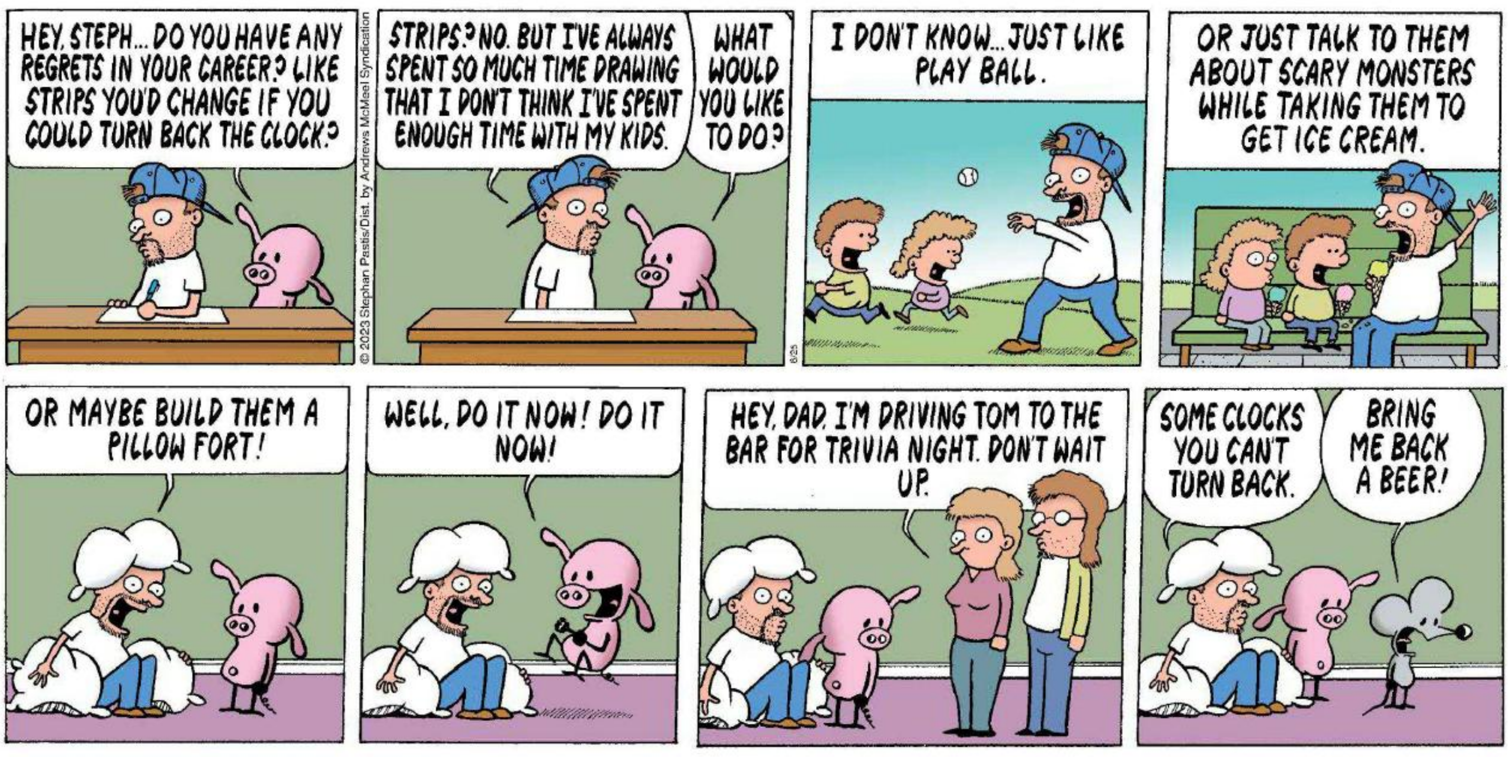
DOONESBURY By Garry Trudeau

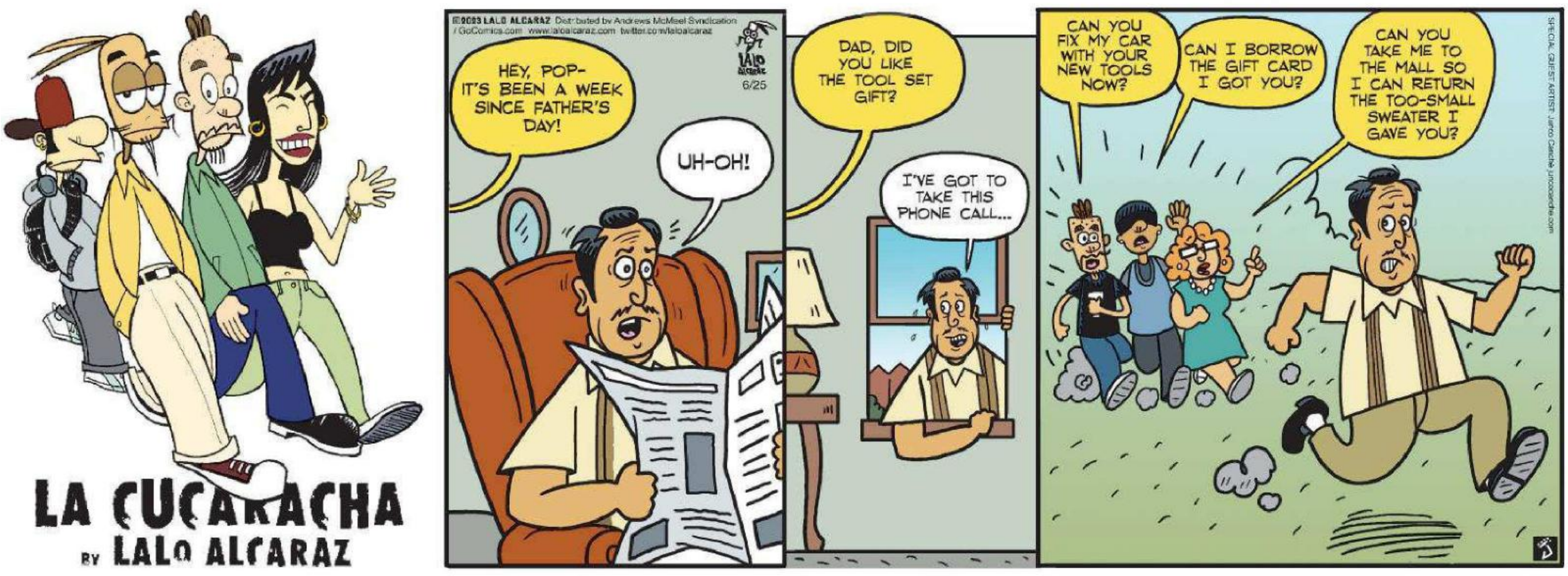

CAMPBELL! WHO ARE ALL THOSE KIDS GETTING OFF THAT BUS? WE'RE NOT IN SESSION!
THEY'RE FROM NEW COLLEGE, SIR. IN FLORIDA.
FLORIDA? WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
DESANTIS HAS BEEN ROUNDING UP WOKE STUDENTS AND DUMPING THEM AT BLUE-STATE COLLEGES.
WHAT? THAT'S AN OUTRAGE!
NOT FOR DESANTIS, SIR.
WELL, WE CAN'T POSSIBLY ACCEPT THEM ALL...
NCF
WALDEN
Andrews McMeel Syndication ©2023 G.B. Trudeau
THOSE WHO CAN'T MEET OUR STANDARDS WILL HAVE TO BE SENT BACK. START SCREENING FOR, YOU KNOW...
6-25
GB Trudeau
www.doonesbury.com
ABILITY TO PAY, YES, SIR.
THIS IS HEART-BREAKING. I FEEL LIKE SCHINDLER.

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia


YOU KNOW, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, FALLING IS REALLY JUST FLYING WITHOUT STEERING.
OR BRAKES.
6-25
BONDIA

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


HEY, STEPH... DO YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS IN YOUR CAREER? LIKE STRIPS YOU'D CHANGE IF YOU COULD TURN BACK THE CLOCK?
© 2023 Stephan Pastis/Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
STRIPS? NO. BUT I'VE ALWAYS SPENT SO MUCH TIME DRAWING THAT I DON'T THINK I'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME WITH MY KIDS.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?
6/25
I DON'T KNOW... JUST LIKE PLAY BALL.
OR JUST TALK TO THEM ABOUT SCARY MONSTERS WHILE TAKING THEM TO GET ICE CREAM.
OR MAYBE BUILD THEM A PILLOW FORT!
WELL, DO IT NOW! DO IT NOW!
HEY, DAD. I'M DRIVING TOM TO THE BAR FOR TRIVIA NIGHT. DON'T WAIT UP.
SOME CLOCKS YOU CAN'T TURN BACK.
BRING ME BACK A BEER!


LA CUCARACHA
BY LALO ALCARAZ
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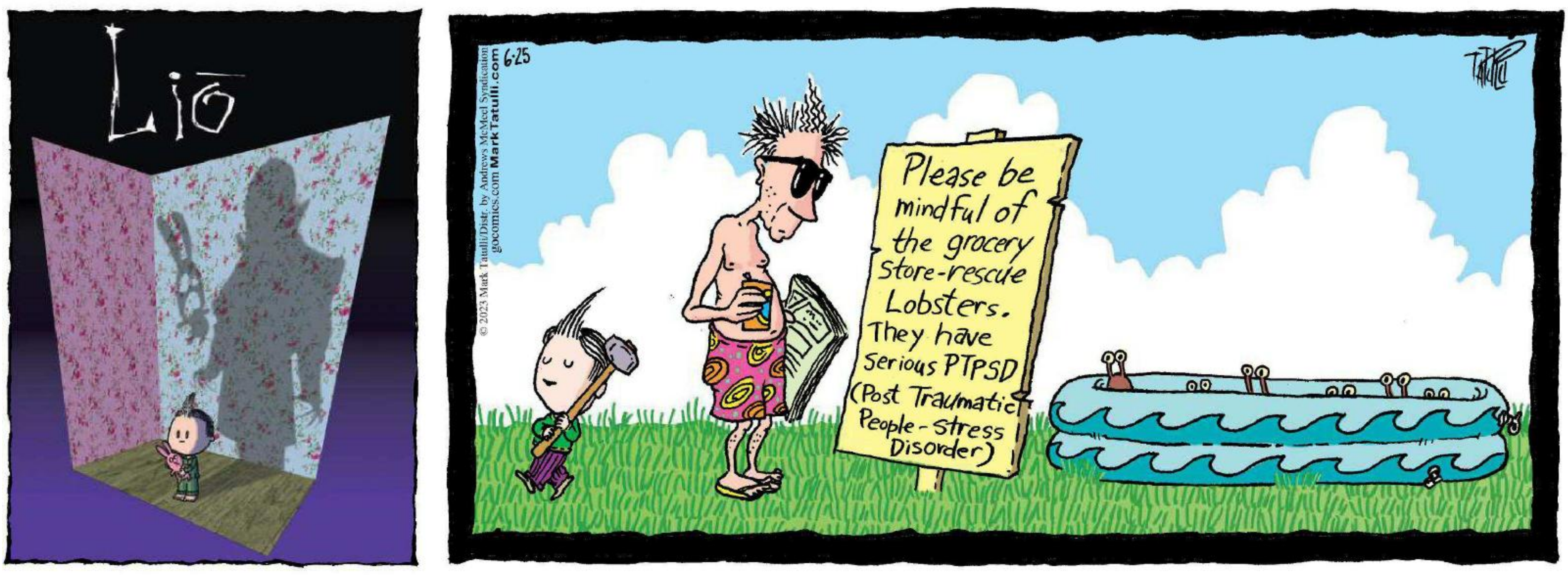
LALO ALCARAZ
6/25
HEY, POP– IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE FATHER'S DAY!
UH-OH!
DAD, DID YOU LIKE THE TOOL SET GIFT?
I'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS PHONE CALL...
CAN YOU FIX MY CAR WITH YOUR NEW TOOLS NOW?
CAN I BORROW THE GIFT CARD I GOT YOU?
CAN YOU TAKE ME TO THE MALL SO I CAN RETURN THE TOO-SMALL SWEATER I GAVE YOU?
SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST


Lio
6·25
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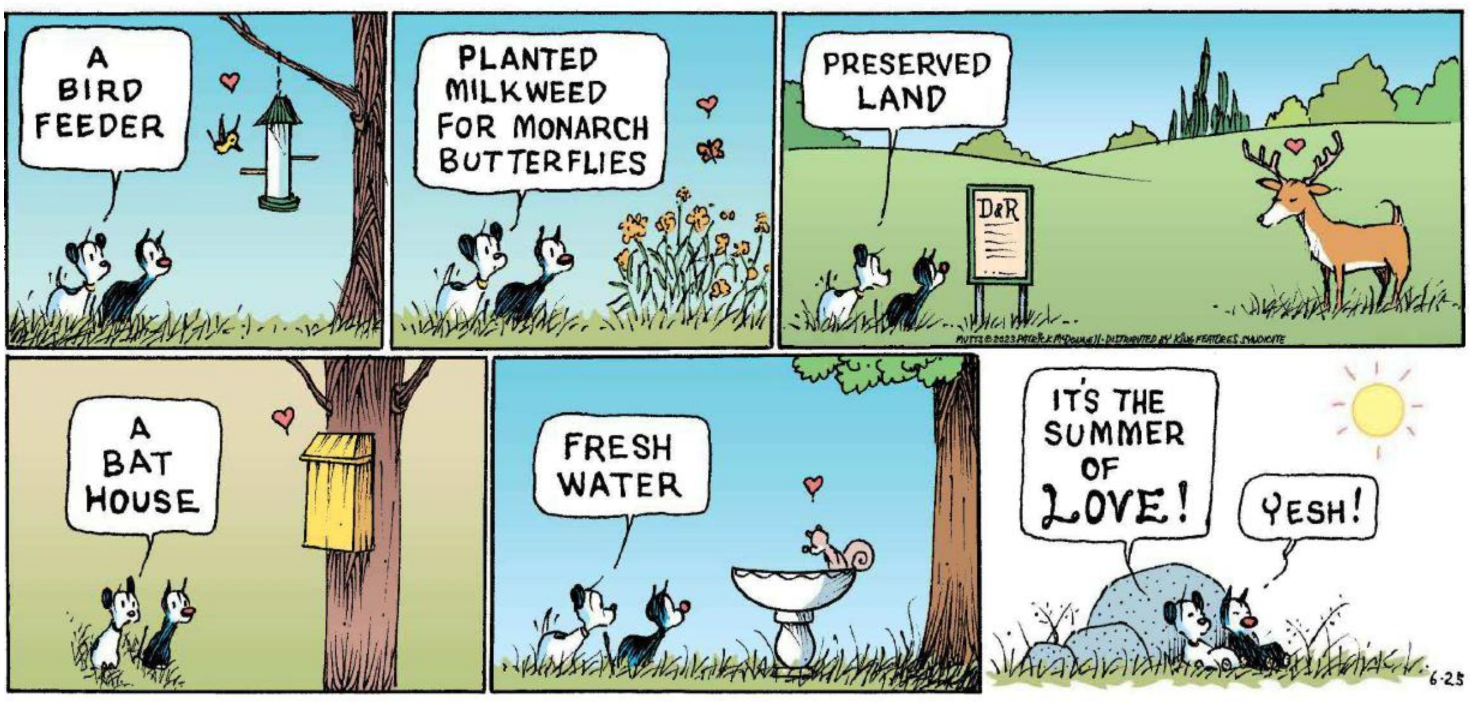
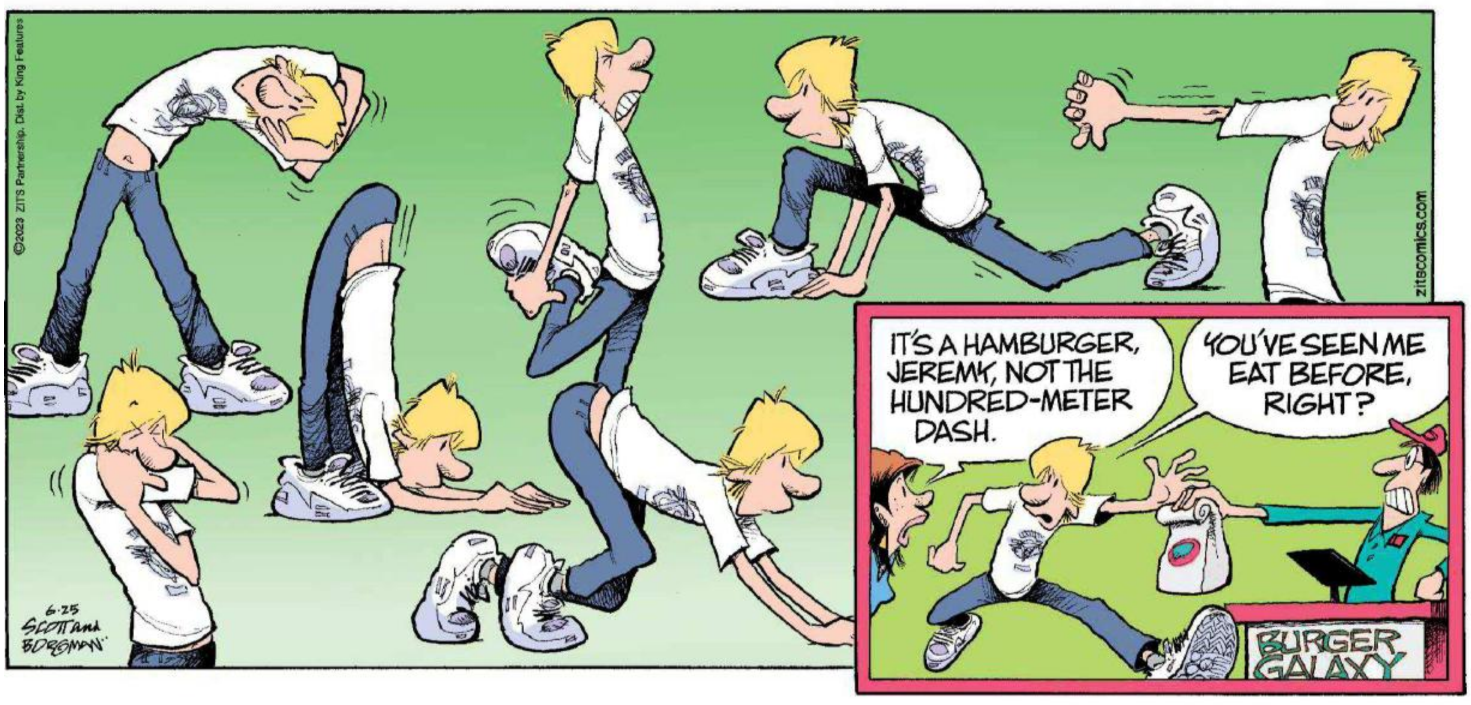
Tatulli
Please be mindful of the grocery store-rescue Lobsters. They have serious PTPSD (Post Traumatic People-stress Disorder)

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell


A BIRD FEEDER
PLANTED MILKWEED FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES
PRESERVED LAND
D&R
MUTTS ©2023 PATRICK MCDONNELL · DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
A BAT HOUSE
FRESH WATER
IT'S THE SUMMER OF LOVE!
YESH!
6-25

ZITS By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman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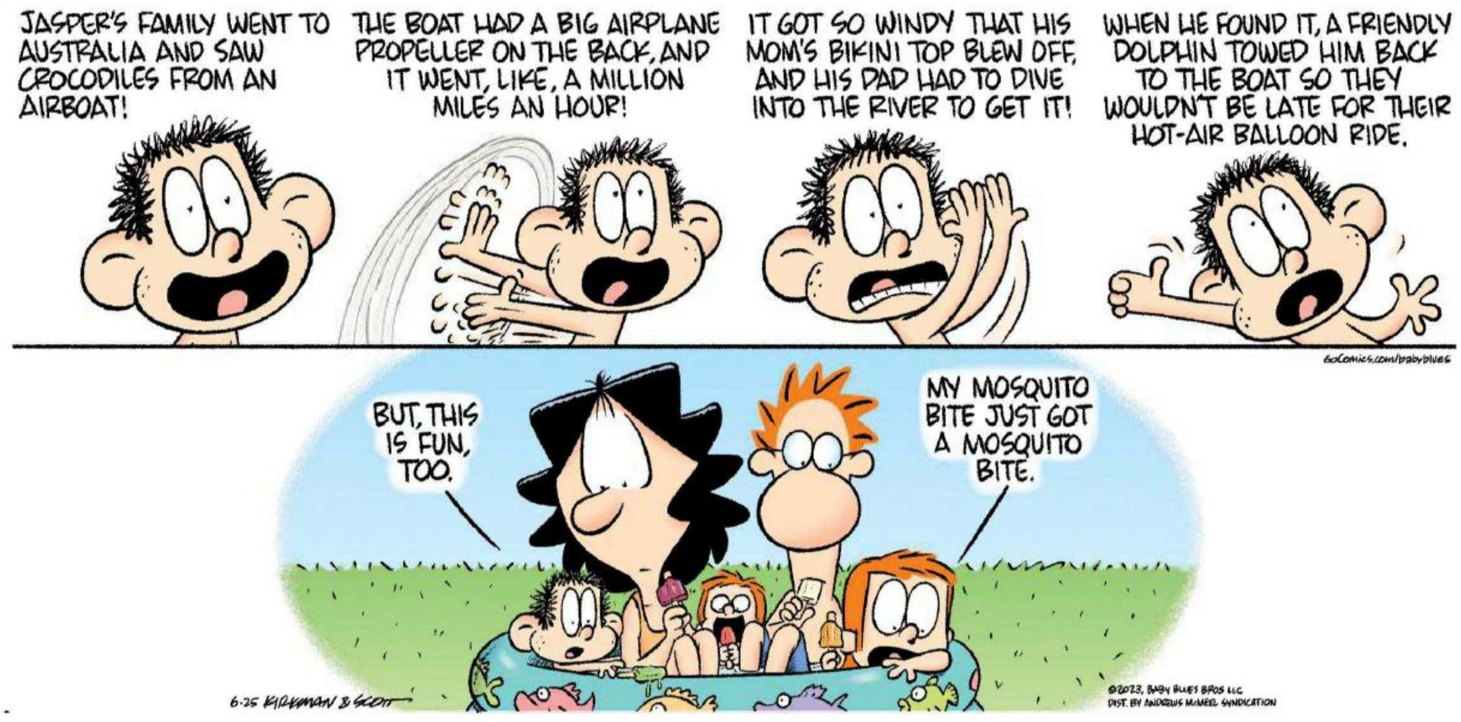
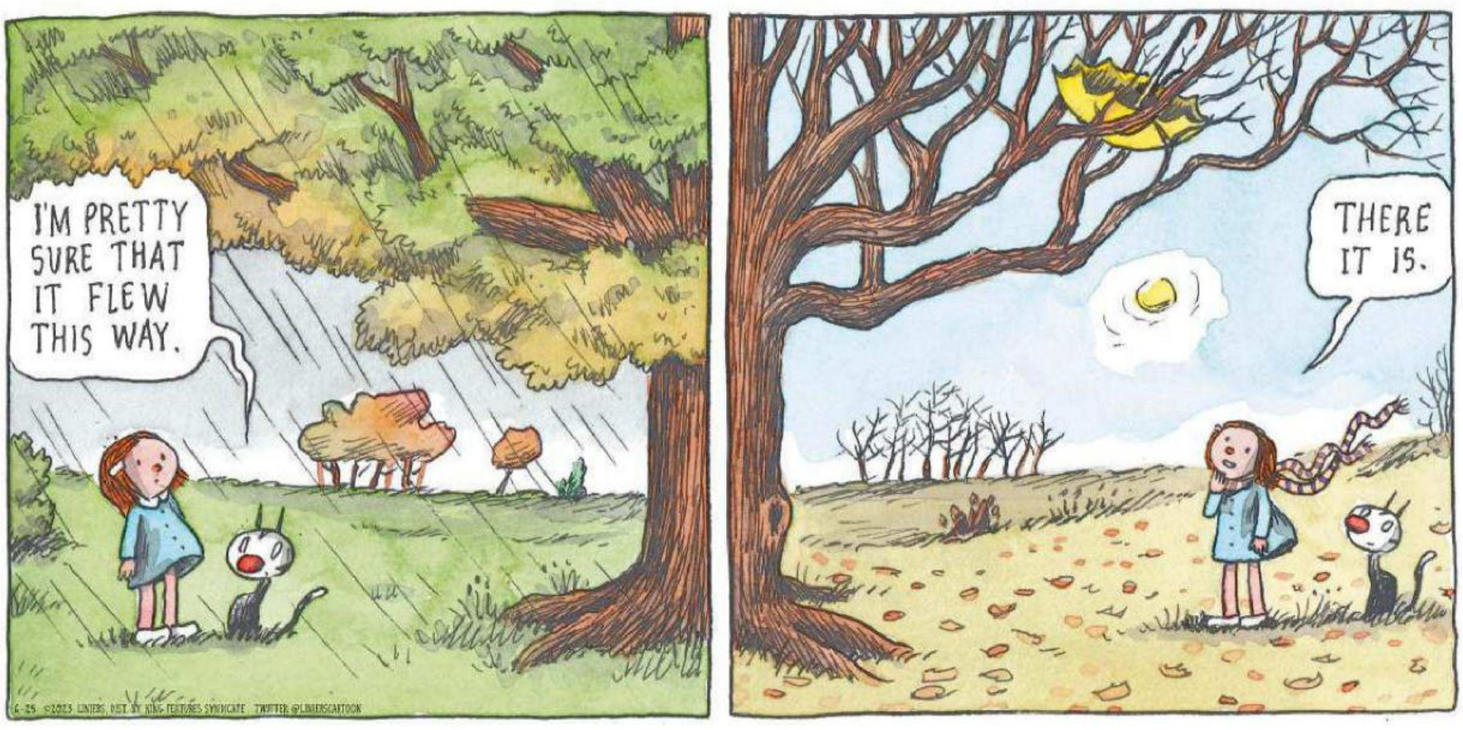
6-25 SCOTT AND BORGMAN
IT'S A HAMBURGER, JEREMY, NOT THE HUNDRED-METER DASH.
YOU'VE SEEN ME EAT BEFORE, RIGHT?
BURGER GALAXY

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott


JASPER'S FAMILY WENT TO AUSTRALIA AND SAW CROCODILES FROM AN AIRBOAT!
THE BOAT HAD A BIG AIRPLANE PROPELLER ON THE BACK, AND IT WENT, LIKE, A MILLION MILES AN HOUR!
IT GOT SO WINDY THAT HIS MOM'S BIKINI TOP BLEW OFF, AND HIS DAD HAD TO DIVE INTO THE RIVER TO GET IT!
WHEN HE FOUND IT, A FRIENDLY DOLPHIN TOWED HIM BACK TO THE BOAT SO THEY WOULDN'T BE LATE FOR THEIR HOT-AIR BALLOON RIDE.
GoComics.com/babyblues
BUT, THIS IS FUN, TOO.
MY MOSQUITO BITE JUST GOT A MOSQUITO BITE.
6-25 KIRKMAN & SCOTT
©2023, BABY BLUES BROS LLC DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

MACANUDO By Liniers


I'M PRETTY SURE THAT IT FLEW THIS WAY.
THERE IT IS.
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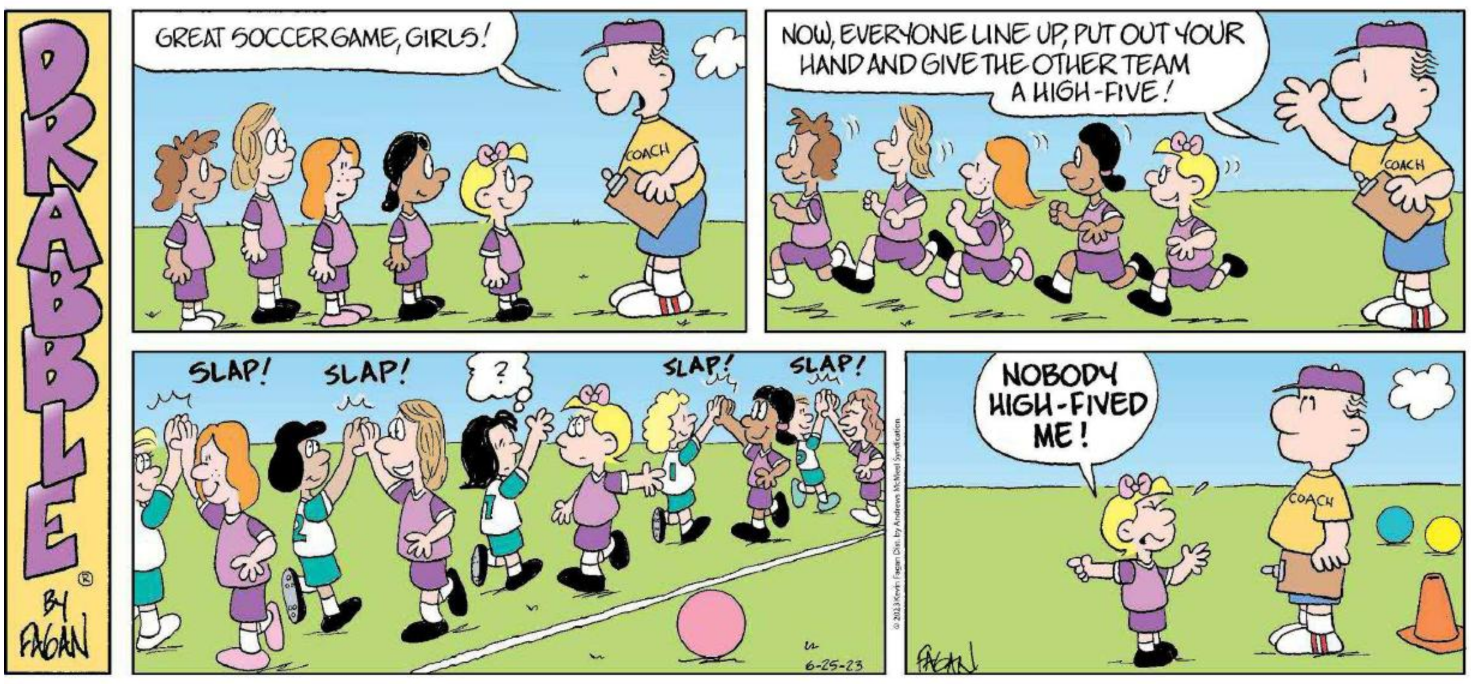
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GREAT SOCCER GAME, GIRLS!
COACH
NOW, EVERYONE LINE UP, PUT OUT YOUR HAND AND GIVE THE OTHER TEAM A HIGH-FIVE!
COACH
SLAP!
SLAP!
?
SLAP!
SLAP!
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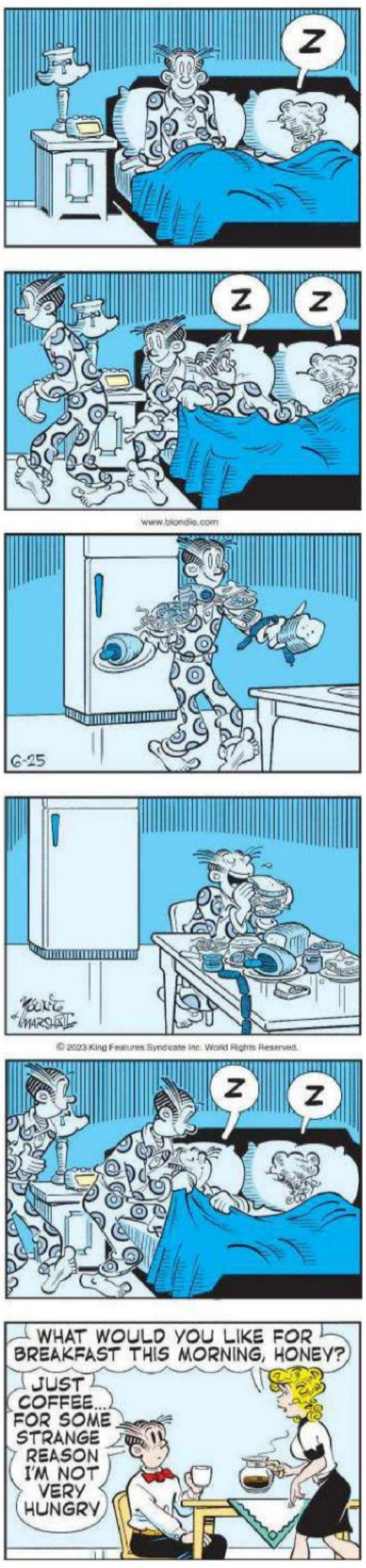
6-25-23
NOBODY HIGH-FIVED ME!
COACH
FAGAN

BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall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6-25
YOUNG & MARSHALL
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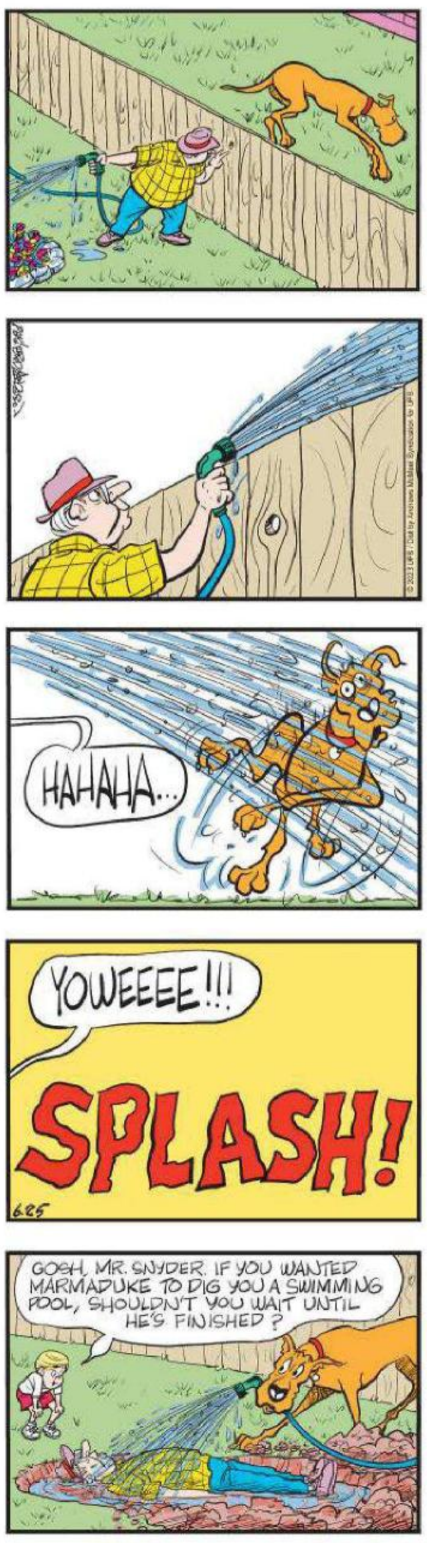
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR BREAKFAST THIS MORNING, HONEY?
JUST COFFEE... FOR SOME STRANGE REASON I'M NOT VERY HUNGRY

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson


HAHAHA...
YOWEEEE!!!
SPLASH!
6-25
GOSH, MR. SNYDER, IF YOU WANTED MARMADUKE TO DIG YOU A SWIMMING POOL, SHOULDN'T YOU WAIT UNTIL HE'S FINISHED?

DOG GONE FUNNY SPRINGVILLE, NY

JIM & CHRIS MARLIN'S TINY RESCUE DOG, **LUVIE**, STOPPED IN FRONT OF THE TV, **TRANSFIXED**, WATCHING A SOCCER GAME. LUVIE BOLTED FROM THE ROOM, FOUND HER **SOCCER BALL** AND THREW AND CHASED IT AROUND THE ROOM. **STAR PLAYER!**

HOROSCOPE

Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): You'll appreciate the way life shows you the thoughts and beliefs you hold that do not serve you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You'll tinker around with your current knowledge, turning it this way and that to fit it with actions that make sense.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Don't give in to the pressure to change. You need nurturing and care, not nudging and pushing. Trust your own sense of timing.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Note that being more compassionate doesn't automatically mean being more accommodating or compliant.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You don't have to know where your joy lands. Just know that if you feel it and you radiate it, you are contributing to the lift.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A sense of belonging and shared purpose are the bedrock of the working world that you don't normally think about, but today you'll be aware of how your individual operations reflect humanity.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Your power is affected by your perspective. Ignore the minor mistakes. Being the bigger person helps you see the bigger picture.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Your heart is open and your intentions good, but that alone isn't quite enough to ensure a smooth interaction. For best results, think ahead to logistics like transportation, parking and the like.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's once again time to remind yourself of the importance of your mission. And if you don't have a mission, choose one.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Witnessing how a person handles their insecurities will inspire your grace and compassion. Direct it to others and yourself alike.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): With so many fleeting opportunities of the "buy now" and "this offer will end soon" variety available, you'll find someone's open-rended invitation quite refreshing.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): This is the ideal time to create something tangible to help you possess the qualities you desire.

Today's birthday (June 25): You create magic in the kitchen of your soul. You dish what you would like to eat. Your offerings are delicious, and life repays you by feeding you on all levels. More highlights: You'll ink an exciting deal. Extra work will be lucrative. A healing will allow you to embody a vision you had for yourself long ago. It will take perseverance and mentorship. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers: 3, 20, 1, 15 and 11.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

State of Disrepair

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

By Dan Schwartz & Shannon Rapp

ACROSS

1 Landlocked African nation
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19 Spotted cat
20 Spanakopita cheese
21 Jasmine —
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100 Inactive
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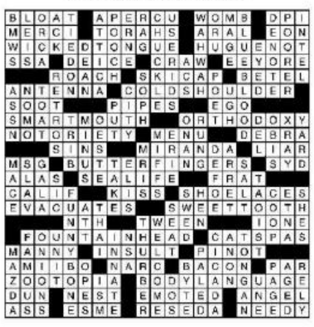
124 Secluded place in Lhasa to think about Treasure?
128 Italian automaker since 1899
129 Big personalities
130 "Turn it up!"
131 Encourage
132 Ish
133 Wages
134 Size up
135 "Don't dele"

DOWN

1 Applauds
2 Start of a call home, perhaps
3 Yoga position
4 Truly brilliant
5 Unit of measure for elephants or cargo
6 Neutral shade
7 Harvests
8 Skipped over
9 Chihuahua neighbor
10 DOJ arm concerned with explosives
11 Are blue
12 UFO pilots, probably
13 Uses Blue Apron, say
14 Land parcel
15 Carrier in French Polynesia
16 Olympian Nathan Chen, notably
17 Grazing ground
20 German woman
23 Aromatherapy array
24 "Lookee here!"
30 Counterpart of "ser," in Spanish
32 Steamy spot
34 "If u ask me"
35 Spanish "Very good!"
36 Slow Churned brand
38 Caprice
42 Egg cell
43 Went for the gold?
44 Playground retort
46 Convened
48 Swiss peak
49 Super Bowl org.
51 Complete a Monopoly circuit
53 "Showtime!"
54 Cry miserably
55 Luxury hotel chain
57 Mild Dutch cheese
61 Pacific tuna
64 Lemur with long fingers and ratlike teeth
66 Tab, for one
68 Shio or shoyu dish
70 Noodles served in dashi
71 Lowering in rank
72 Clean air agcy.
73 Star in Lyra
74 Deserve
75 Retired, maybe
76 Group of schemers
80 "Twilight" vampire
81 Industry-wide expo
82 Latin American pastries
84 Ultrasound goop
85 Outer: Pref.
87 Sparky the Sun Devil's sch.
88 Minor criticisms
89 Naps
91 Tel —, Israel
92 Sean of "Stranger Things"
94 Swanky
95 Condition sometimes treated with hearing aids
98 Handheld Nintendo system
103 Arched foot part
105 Duelers at some bars?
106 Ill will
108 Amazes
110 Because of
111 Scores 100% on
112 Foldable bed
113 Wear with time
115 In the open
116 On-ramp sign
117 So far
121 Mario Kart console, for short
123 NorCal hub
125 Two-time French Open winner Swiatek
126 In the style of
127 — Technica: tech news website

Last week's solution: "Human Resources"



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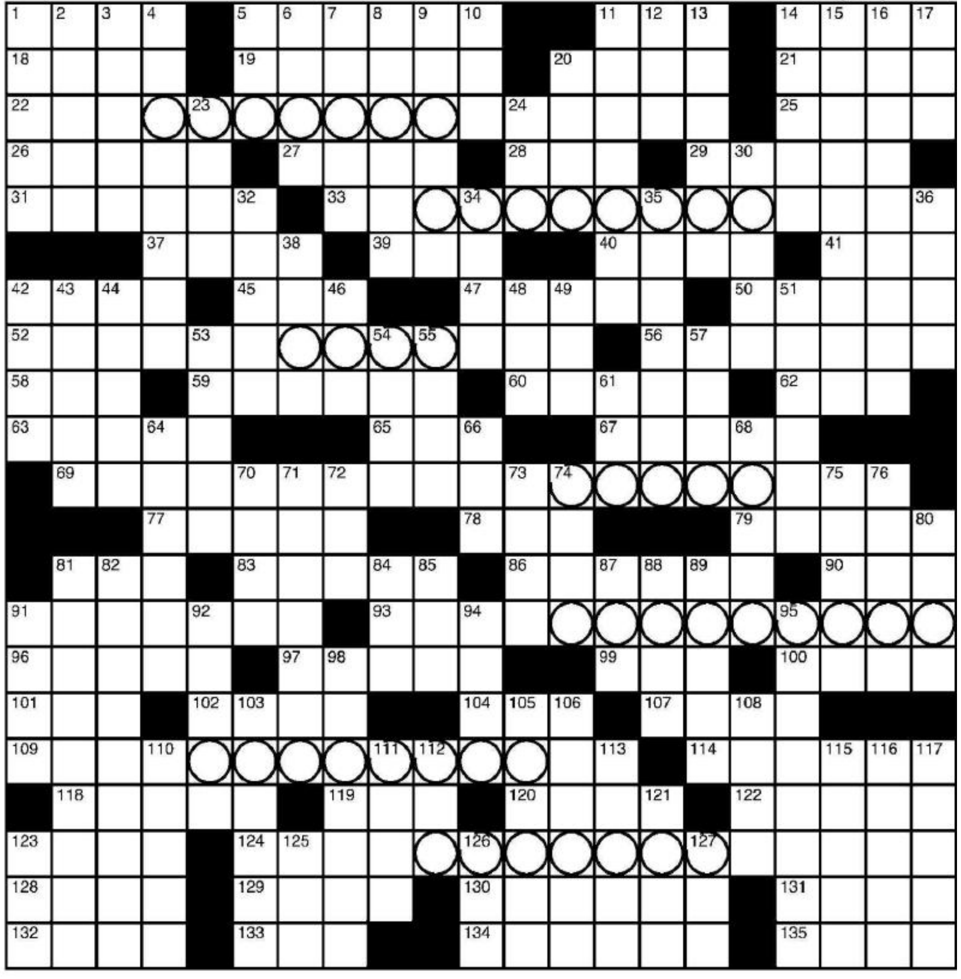


ASK AMY

Dear Amy: Until recently, my neighbor "Ron" and I got along very well.

Ron works from home, and I am retired.

I enjoy working in my garage, house or yard, usually between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. While working in the garage, I will listen to music, and sometimes it can be a little loud because I'm using tools.

Ron posted on Facebook a profanity-laced post about my loud music, saying it interferes with his job.

Basically, he made me out to be an inconsiderate jerk. All he or his wife had to do was to let me know it was an issue, and I would have turned it down, no problem.

When my wife talked to them about the situation, first they denied that they were referring to me, blaming it on other neighbors.

Then they blamed my wife for telling me of the post.

My wife eventually got a half-hearted apology, which she said should go to me.

They said they'd apologize when they saw me. The next day they "unfriended" my wife on Facebook and haven't spoken to us since.

Did we do something wrong? We try to be the best neighbors possible.

Upset

Dear Upset: You did do something wrong, but your neighbors' rude and public reaction has far overshadowed your behavior.

You failed to imagine that your loud music might disturb your working neighbor.

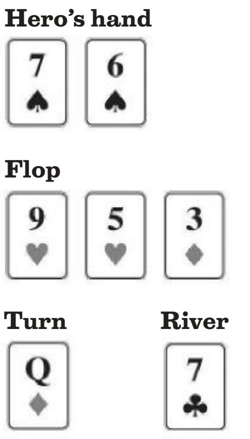
Social media platforms can become toxic cesspools. People write things they wouldn't dream of saying out loud. Then, if things go badly, they hide behind the block and unfriend buttons.

If you don't get an apology and want to demonstrate a more sophisticated way of behaving, you might close the circle if you acknowledge that you're sorry this has created tension between you. You could add: "In the future, I hope that we can restore our neighborly connection and talk things out personally and respectfully when there is a problem."

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

POKER

Jonathan Little



On the first hand of Day 3 of a $1,500 WSOP event with blinds at 3,000/6,000, I raised to 17,000 out of my 640,000 stack from the cutoff seat with 7♠ 6♠, and a young, loose, aggressive player three-bet to 57,000.

Both calling and folding are fine options.

I called. The flop came 9♥ 5♥ 3♦, giving me a double-gutshot straight draw. My opponent bet 48,000 into the 126,000 pot. This is an excellent spot to call with most of my range.

I called. The turn was the Q♦. My opponent bet 104,000 into the 222,000 pot. At this point, my opponent is likely setting up a sizable river bet. I want to call with my draws to hopefully realize large implied odds on the river. I could push all-in on the turn, but that doesn't make sense with my premium made hands because, as on the flop, my opponent is likely drawing thin.

I called. The river was the 7♣, giving me a marginal pair. My opponent pushed all-in for 431,000 into the 430,000 pot. I lose to all premium made hands and I beat most bluffs. I have to figure out how often my opponent is bluffing and see if I am getting the correct pot odds to call.

I imagine my opponent would bet all straights, sets, two pairs, overpairs, A-Q, K-Q, and perhaps Q-J in this manner for value. That is roughly 65 combinations of hands.

The tricky part is figuring out how often my opponent is bluffing because his range varies wildly depending on his preflop strategy. If he is three-betting a linear range of mostly high-card hands, he should have relatively few bluffs unless he is using hands like A-J and A-10 as bluffs. If he is three-betting with lots of junky hands, he can have many missed draws. Also, he may only three-bet hands like 8♥ 5♥ 10% of the time whereas he may three-bet Q-Q 100% of the time. If he is bluffing with almost all reasonable bluffing candidates he has perhaps 38 bluffing combinations.

If he is value betting all reasonable hands while also bluffing with all reasonable hands, he will have 63% value bets and 37% bluffs. This means that when I call, I will win 37% of the time. Since this hand is from a tournament, I need to call off a bit tighter due to the payout implications, but even then, calling is reasonable.

I eventually busted in 9th place for $21,360 when I lost a big pot with A-A vs. K-K and then a small all-in with Q-Q against A-8. Sometimes it just isn't your day.

Little is a professional poker player with over $7,000,000 in live tournament cashes.

SUDOKU

	8				5			
6		5	4					
	1	2		3				
	5			4	8			6
		6	2		9	1		
9			6	7			2	
				8		7	4	
					1	5		2
			3				1	

Level: Impossible

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5	4	8	7	9	2	6	1	3
6	7	3	4	5	1	8	9	2
9	1	2	6	8	3	7	4	5
7	8	4	9	1	5	2	3	6
1	5	6	3	2	4	9	7	8
2	3	9	8	6	7	1	5	4
3	6	1	2	4	9	5	8	7
4	2	5	1	7	8	3	6	9
8	9	7	5	3	6	4	2	1

Solution to last week's puzzle

More Online

For other brain-teasing challenges, go to *latimes.com/games*.

			1				6	
		3						
		1		3		2	8	
	9			2			5	
		5	9		3	8		
	1			8			4	
	6	8		4		7		
						5		
	3	7			6		2	

Level: Tough

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		1		4	
			6		
6		5			
	1		2		
	4			3	

Level: Tough

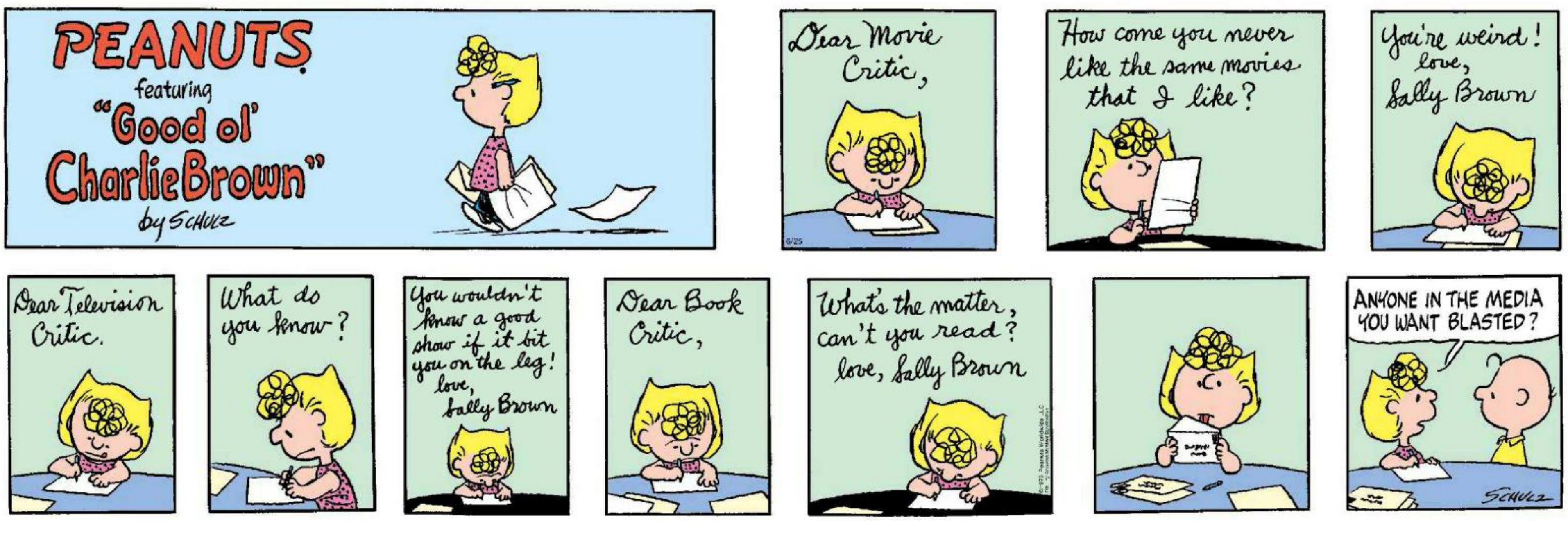
5	6	8	1	2	3	4	9	7
9	2	3	7	6	4	1	5	8
7	4	1	8	5	9	3	6	2
4	3	6	5	1	7	8	2	9
8	1	7	3	9	2	5	4	6
2	5	9	6	4	8	7	1	3
3	9	2	4	8	5	6	7	1
6	7	5	2	3	1	9	8	4
1	8	4	9	7	6	2	3	5

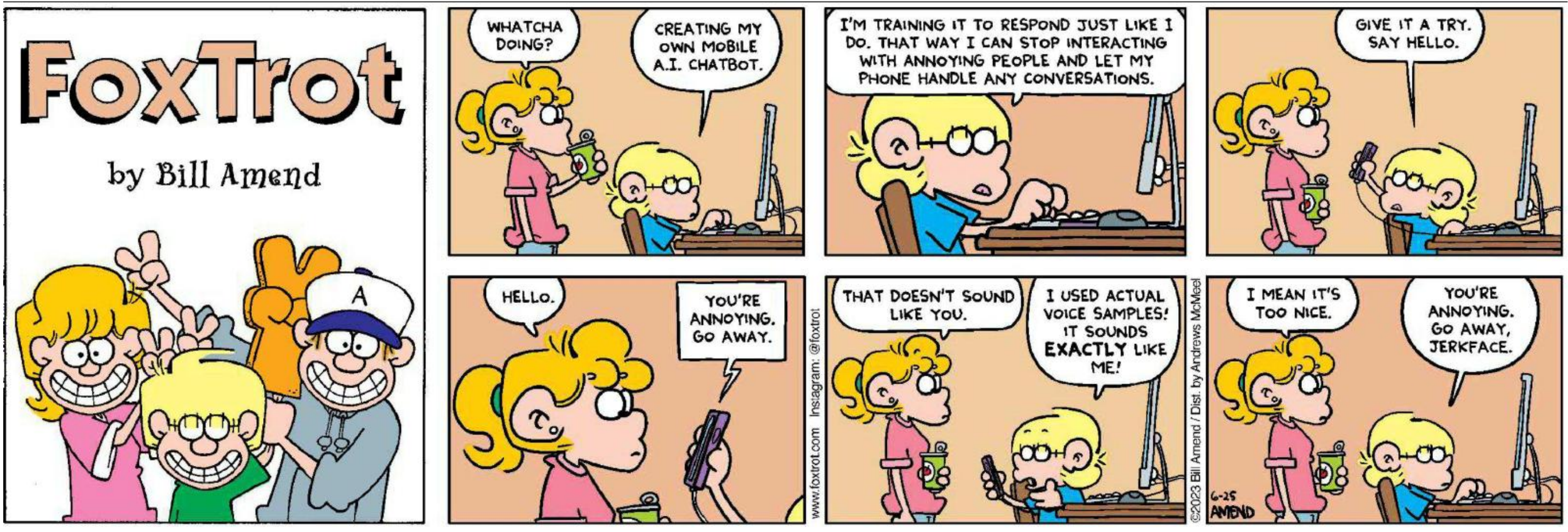
3	5	4	2	6	1
1	6	2	4	3	5
5	4	1	3	2	6
6	2	3	5	1	4
2	1	5	6	4	3
4	3	6	1	5	2

Solutions to Saturday's puzzles

6/25/23

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.


PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol' CharlieBrown"
by SCHULZ
Dear Movie Critic,
6/25
How come you never like the same movies that I like?
You're weird! love, Sally Brown
Dear Television Critic.
What do you know?
You wouldn't know a good show if it bit you on the leg! love, Sally Brown
Dear Book Critic,
What's the matter, can't you read? love, Sally Brown
ANYONE IN THE MEDIA YOU WANT BLASTED?
SCHULZ


FoxTrot
by Bill Amend
A
WHATCHA DOING?
CREATING MY OWN MOBILE A.I. CHATBOT.
I'M TRAINING IT TO RESPOND JUST LIKE I DO. THAT WAY I CAN STOP INTERACTING WITH ANNOYING PEOPLE AND LET MY PHONE HANDLE ANY CONVERSATIONS.
GIVE IT A TRY. SAY HELLO.
HELLO.
YOU'RE ANNOYING. GO AWAY.
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THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU.
I USED ACTUAL VOICE SAMPLES! IT SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE ME!
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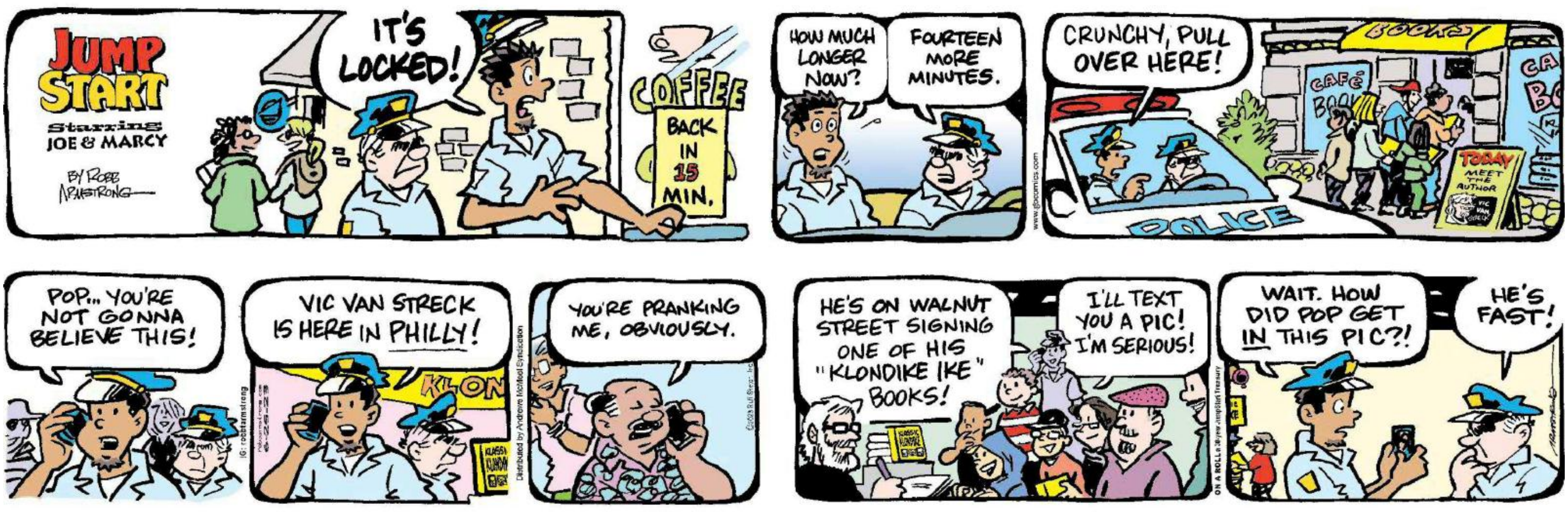
6-25 AMEND
I MEAN IT'S TOO NICE.
YOU'RE ANNOYING. GO AWAY, JERKFACE.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POLICE
POP... YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS!
IG: robbtarmstrong
VIC VAN STRECK IS HERE IN PHILLY!
KLON
KLASSIC KLONDIKE
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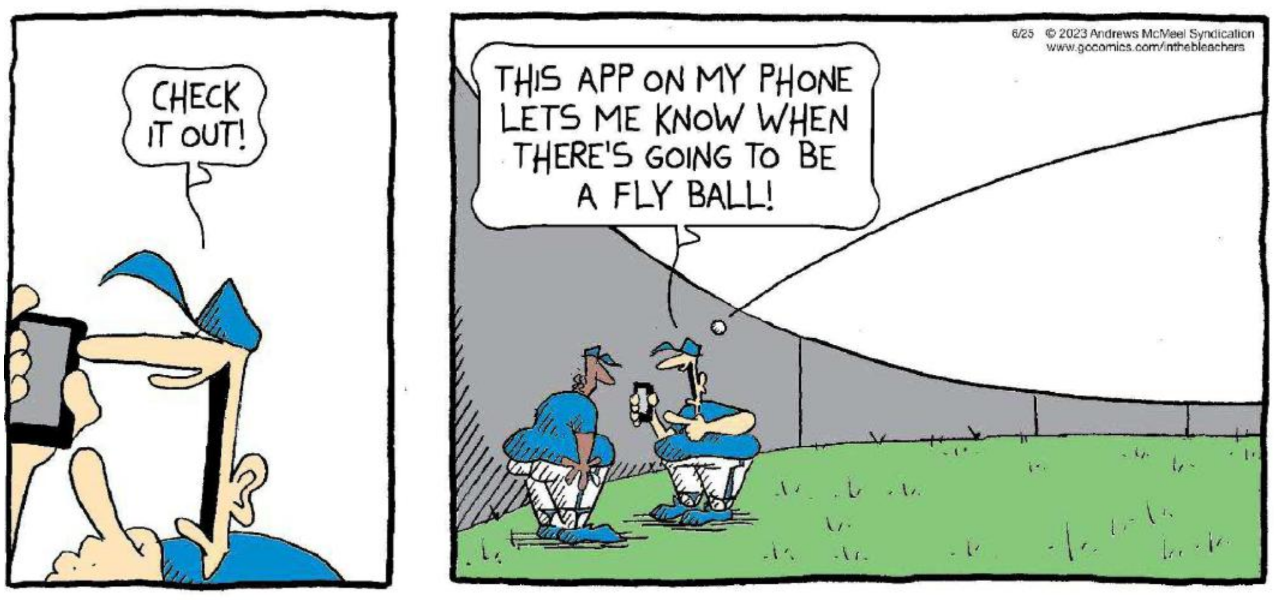
YOU'RE PRANKING ME, OBVIOUSLY.
HE'S ON WALNUT STREET SIGNING ONE OF HIS "KLONDIKE IKE" BOOKS!
KLASSIC KLONDIKE
I'LL TEXT YOU A PIC! I'M SERIOUS!
WAIT. HOW DID POP GET IN THIS PIC?!
HE'S FAST!

IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore


CHECK IT OUT!
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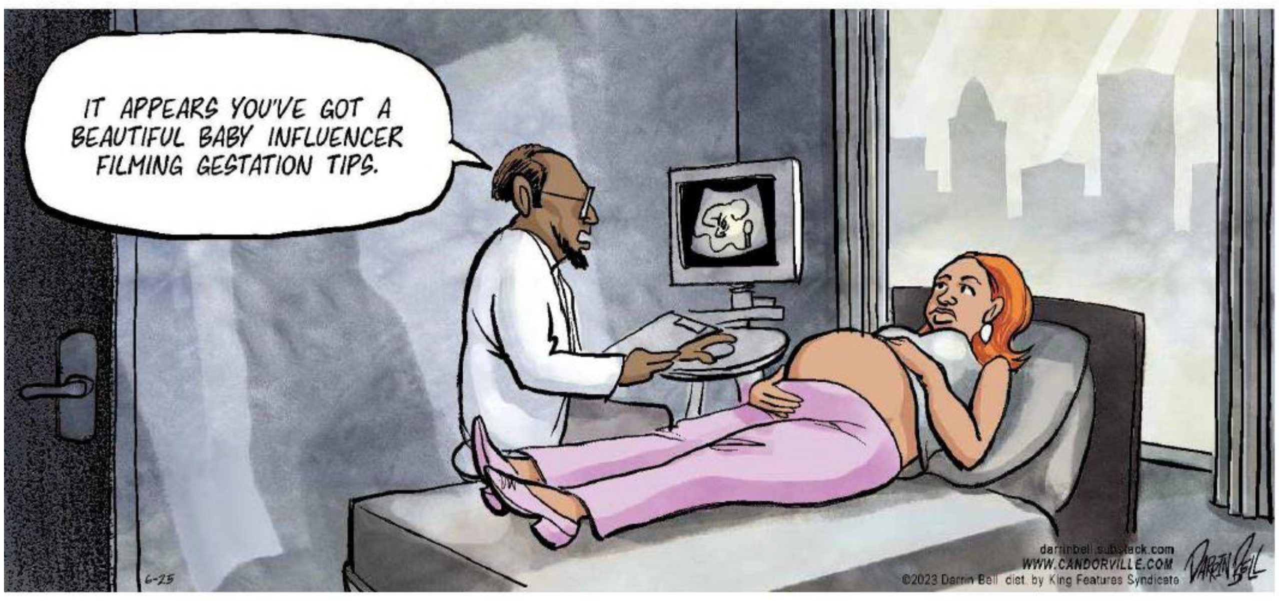
THIS APP ON MY PHONE LETS ME KNOW WHEN THERE'S GOING TO BE A FLY BALL!

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell


IT APPEARS YOU'VE GOT A BEAUTIFUL BABY INFLUENCER FILMING GESTATION TIPS.
6-25
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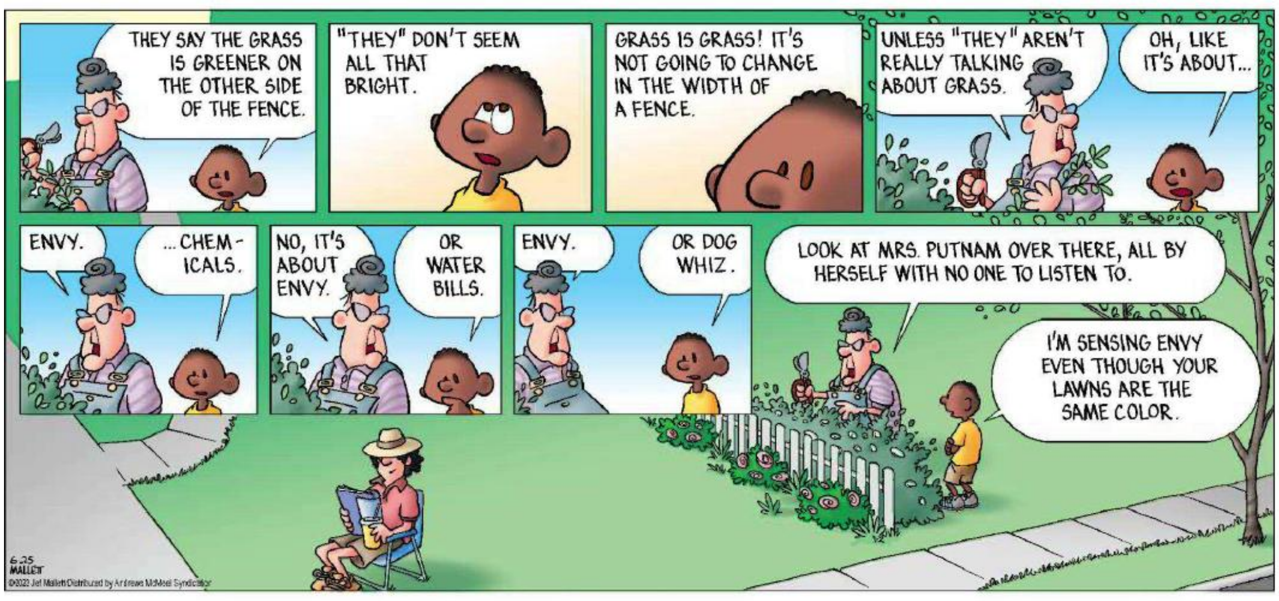
FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


THEY SAY THE GRASS IS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE.
"THEY" DON'T SEEM ALL THAT BRIGHT.
GRASS IS GRASS! IT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE IN THE WIDTH OF A FENCE.
UNLESS "THEY" AREN'T REALLY TALKING ABOUT GRASS.
OH, LIKE IT'S ABOUT...
ENVY.
...CHEMICALS.
NO, IT'S ABOUT ENVY.
OR WATER BILLS.
ENVY.
OR DOG WHIZ.
LOOK AT MRS. PUTNAM OVER THERE, ALL BY HERSELF WITH NO ONE TO LISTEN TO.
I'M SENSING ENVY EVEN THOUGH YOUR LAWNS ARE THE SAME COLOR.
6-25 MALLETT
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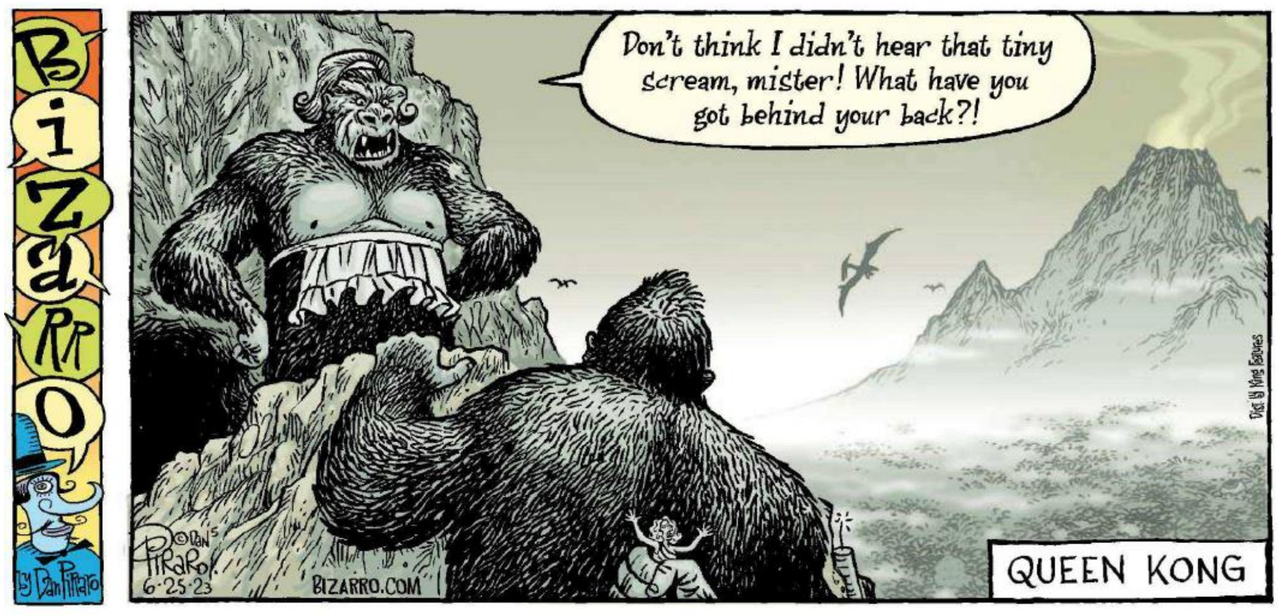
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by Dan Piraro
Don't think I didn't hear that tiny scream, mister! What have you got behind your back?!
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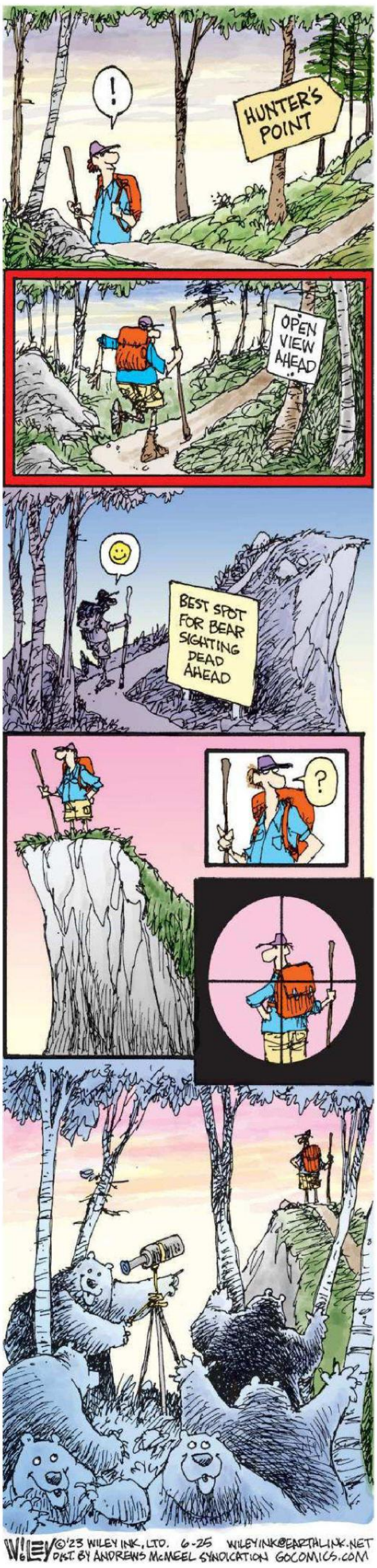
!
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OPEN VIEW AHEAD
BEST SPOT FOR BEAR SIGHTING DEAD AHEAD
?
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Los Angeles Times
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JUNE 2023

INSIGHTS ON AI, LITIGATION AND THE LATEST LEGAL TRENDS

BUSINESS OF LAW

DEI and Adaptability in the World of Jurisprudence

In-House Counsel Leadership Awards Recap and Southern California's Top Attorneys

RUTAN

Congratulations to the Los Angeles Times B2B Publishing and Events team and all the nominees of the 2023 In-House Counsel Leadership Awards!

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Dear Reader:

L.A. Times B2B Publishing is excited to present our third annual Business of Law magazine, covering trends and updates in the industry, recapping the In-House Counsel Leadership Awards, and spotlighting legal visionaries.

The articles in this magazine examine a range of topics impacting the business of law – from shifting operational priorities in legal departments to how in-house counsels are responding to changing regulations to new challenges arising from a post-pandemic landscape and more.

The In-House Counsel Leadership Awards were held on May 4, 2023 at The Beverly Hilton, where we recognized executive-level in-house lawyers for their leadership skills within their organizations as well as their contributions to the legal field and the community at large. The evening kicked off with a cocktail mixer, was followed by an illuminating panel discussion on adopting AI within the legal profession, and concluded with a dinner and awards presentation.

The law firm attorneys profiled in this magazine have exhibited noteworthy achievements within their respective practice areas. Each was considered for their successes and accomplishments achieved in the past 24 months and for innovative strategies to help their organizations and clients avoid risk and leverage opportunities.

Congratulations to all of the honorees and visionaries! Also, thank you to our Platinum sponsors, Rutan & Tucker, LLP and University of West Los Angeles, and our Gold sponsors, Nixon Peabody LLP and Waymaker LLP.

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Best regards,

Anna Magzanyan

Anna Magzanyan

Chief Strategy & Revenue Officer and Chief of Staff to Executive Chairman

The selection of honorees and visionaries and the production of the event as well as the magazine were organized by L.A. Times B2B Publishing and did not involve the editorial staff of the L.A. Times. Contact us with comments or questions at *b2bpublishing@latimes.com.*

Anna Magzanyan | Chief Strategy & Revenue Officer and Chief of Staff to Executive Chairman | anna.magzanyan@latimes.com

Sales Department

Helya Askari Executive Director of Sales
helya.askari@latimes.com

Naz Bayazit Senior Account Executive
naz.bayazit@latimes.com

Heidi Lawrence Account Executive
heidi.lawrence@latimes.com

Karren Adamyan Sales Project Manager
Wendy Hultgren B2B Marketing Coordinator
Sergio Zaldivar B2B Marketing Coordinator

Marketing & Contributing Writers

Mike Kechichian EVP, B2B Publishing
Christianne Bradley Director, Client Solutions
Ellen Varvarian Sr. Marketing & Planning Analyst
Courtney Bright Sr. Manager, B2B Publishing
Grace Ko Designer
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Workplace, Cybersecurity and Regulatory Disputes Top Trends in Business Litigation

Labor, data protection and DEI litigation are key risk areas for 2023; class-action suits remain a critical concern.

GLOBAL LAW FIRM Norton Rose Fulbright's 18th Annual Litigation Trends Survey, released earlier this year, found that corporate counsel faced a significant rise in regulatory proceedings in 2022, with more expected this year, as agency enforcement activity picks up. In fact, half of the survey respondents were involved in at least one type of regulatory proceedings last year, and more than one-third expect such proceedings to increase in 2023.

The survey also reveals heightened litigation risk in key areas: the top three spots in which respondents expected disputes exposure to increase this year are employment and labor, cyber and data protection, and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). The report also explores class actions in greater depth, revealing fresh insights into an area that more than 33% of respondents identified as a critical concern in 2023.

@Song_about_summer / Adobe Stock

"Our experience precisely mirrors what our respondents say," said Steven Jansma, Norton Rose Fulbright's U.S. head of litigation and disputes. "Government agencies are eager to bring impactful cases and investigations, and we are seeing robust enforcement efforts across the board."

This year's report is based on a survey of more than 430 general counsel and in-house litigation leaders, based in the United States and Canada, in industries such as financial services, energy, healthcare and technology. The research also includes insights from in-depth interviews to better explore emerging trends and the litigation challenges facing leading organizations.

"Corporate counsel anticipate increased exposure to employment and labor disputes in 2023, and DEI is an increased litigation concern for the third straight year," said Shauna Clark, Norton Rose Fulbright's U.S. head of employment and labor who is also the firm's U.S. chair. "Between the current regulatory environment, economic headwinds and lingering effects of the pandemic, now is not the time for business leaders to scale back their preparation."

Despite these challenges, corporate counsel feel largely prepared to address litigation in the year ahead, with respondents citing factors including their organization's in-house litigation experience and confidence in external counsel, as well as in-house tools and capabilities such as eDiscovery platforms and data protection solutions.

"Companies have become very sophisticated in connection with risk mitigation, litigation management and the retention of highly skilled in-house counsel and outside trial lawyers to prosecute or defend cases which they face," said Richard Krumholz, Norton Rose Fulbright's global head of litigation and disputes.

A comprehensive report detailing the survey's findings is available at *litigationtrends.com*. Highlights include:

- Sixty-five percent of respondents reported that they had to work on employment and labor disputes last year. They also ranked it first among the most concerning areas in the year ahead, amid increased enforcement actions, rising unionization activity and a heightened focus on social justice and DEI.
- Cybersecurity, data protection and data privacy are also top of mind, with one-third of respondents experiencing litigation in this area last year. It was the number two area in which respondents expect dispute exposure to increase in 2023.
- More than one-quarter of respondents (28%) said their exposure to environmental, social and governance (ESG) litigation increased in 2022, and 24% expect increased exposure in the coming year.
- Class action activity and risk parallel the broader litigation landscape, with employment and labor identified as the most common type of class action encountered in 2022. It was also the leading area of future concern when it comes to class actions, followed by cybersecurity, data protection and data privacy, while ESG ranked third.
- Healthcare, including life sciences and retail, were the leading industries when it comes to an expected uptick in regulatory proceedings, with 46% and 45% of respondents in those respective sectors predicting an increase in the coming year.
- Thirty-six percent of corporate counsel surveyed expect to increase the number of in-house litigators in 2023, up from 22% the previous year.

Introduced in 2004, Norton Rose Fulbright's Annual Litigation Trends Survey is the longest-running survey of corporate counsel on litigation issues and trends.

Constrained Budgets and Expanding Workloads May Squeeze Legal Departments

Corporate legal departments will feel the impact of three major operational trends this year, according to Gartner, Inc.

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The effects of less cash on hand and bigger caseloads will challenge legal departments, according to a study from Gartner, Inc. The trends range from ongoing disruption to flat budgets and information-related regulation.

"At the broadest level, legal resources will remain flat due to modest budget increases in the face of rising personnel, technology and service provider costs, lawyer exhaustion and record-high attrition, and an environment of cost-consciousness with some industries implementing hiring freezes," said Raashi Rastogi, director, research in the Gartner Legal Risk & Compliance Practice. "Meanwhile, the demand for, scale and complexity of legal work is increasing due to more time spent managing disruption, new information-related regulation, and changing risk appetite."

Disruption Will Continue to Weigh on Legal Teams

There have been a range of disruptions that lawyers have faced in the past year that are set to continue through 2023. Despite expectations that disruptions will be less continuous in 2024 and beyond, in a Gartner survey of 140 lawyers in July 2022, respondents expected to spend 100% more time managing business disruptions going forward than they did pre-pandemic.

These disruptions include events such as the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine; supply-chain shocks that are causing macroeconomic difficulty; along with high inflation and the specter of recession. There is also intense societal pressure that is redefining what is expected from businesses in terms of their social and environmental practices.

Legal must define a "disruption response service" – a process that defines how/whether to support a disruption, and how to allocate resources to it. Legal needs to identify and invest in the activities that drive disruption response, such as keeping on top of regulatory changes, changing risk appetites more frequently, educating business partners on new risk considerations, or coordinating responses with business partners when having to deal with abrupt changes such as sanctioned entities.

Legal Budgets Will Likely Not Face Cuts

It's unlikely that legal will see big budget changes in 2023. It is one of the business functions least likely to face cuts, but also the least likely to see an increase, according to a 2022 Gartner survey of CFOs. In such turbulent times, it's easy to see budget stability as a good thing, but burgeoning workloads, personnel costs and fast-rising costs for legal service providers mean that lawyers will still have to find ways to do more with less.

"Legal departments may not be facing cost cutting at the moment, but the macroeconomic environment is making businesses very cost-conscious," said Rastogi. "Cost consciousness can quickly become cost cutting if economic conditions worsen."

Gartner experts recommend that legal leaders make critical investments now. Even with constrained resources, prioritizing and implementing projects that will save resources in the long run may pay off sooner rather than later if things turn for the worse.

Information-Related Regulation Will Continue to Expand

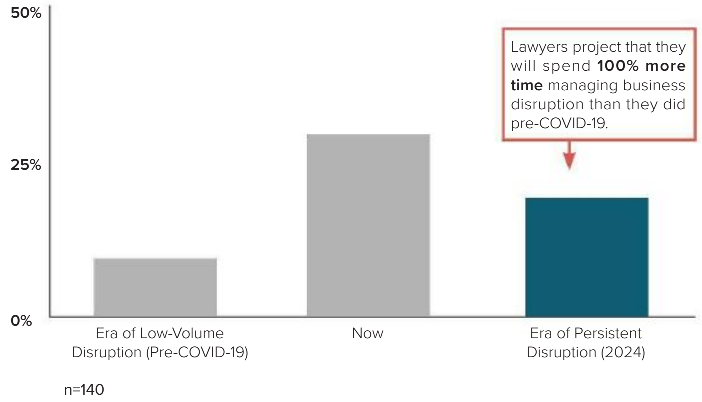
Societal pressures around privacy and the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) have forced regulators to move very quickly. The public's increasing unease around AI is leading to more legislation such as the U.S. AI Bill of Rights and the EU AI Act.

Privacy legislation, such as GDPR and CCPA, has enormous implications for business and is being echoed across most jurisdictions. In fact, Gartner predicts that 75% of the world's population will be covered under modern privacy regulations by 2024, up from just 20% in 2021.

"Lawyers will need a strategy for adapting to new legislation faster than ever," said Rastogi. "Understanding how their organization is exposed to new regulations and how to evaluate potential disruptions will be critical for all organizations in the coming years."

Figure 1: Lawyers Time Spent Managing Business Disruption

Median Percentage of Time Spent Managing Business Disruption



Source: Gartner (2023)

Four Paths for Legal Teams to Stay Ahead of Regulations in a Time of Unprecedented Change

Regulatory changes are being driven by increasing regulatory oversight, renewed geopolitical tensions and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

There are four primary options available to legal and compliance leaders to cope with unprecedented levels of regulatory change, according to technology research and consulting firm Gartner, Inc.

"The blistering pace of regulatory change right now is threatening to overwhelm some legal and compliance teams," said Nick Sworek, director, advisory in the Gartner Legal, Risk & Compliance practice. "As the main drivers of regulatory change appear ongoing, legal and compliance leaders will need to find a sustainable way to keep on top of the requirements this will place on their organizations."

Gartner experts believe three distinct waves of investment in regulatory tracking have emerged in recent years.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, legal and compliance leaders turned to law firms for a quick solution to track the regulatory volatility of that time," said Sworek. "In 2021, when the pace of change clearly wasn't slowing, legal leaders started looking at less costly in-house tracking options. This year, as legal and compliance teams are finding their 'new normal,' they are looking at technology investment as a more sustainable strategy to keep up with ongoing regulatory change and support in-house staff."

To help legal and compliance leaders understand their options for tracking regulatory change, Gartner experts have identified four main approaches that should be evaluated.

1. Law Firms

When faced with the regulatory volatility in the early stages of the pandemic, legal and compliance leaders turned to their law firm partners to help stay on top of the changes. This is a good option because law firms tend to have a comprehensive understanding of what regulations apply across geography and industry, and do not require a long onboarding process to get them up to speed.

"The main drawback of using a law firm for regulatory tracking is that it's expensive, and that cost is likely to increase further as many law firms are set to increase their rates," said Sworek. "The cost factor has led many legal and compliance firms to look for a more sustainable long-term approach to regulatory tracking."

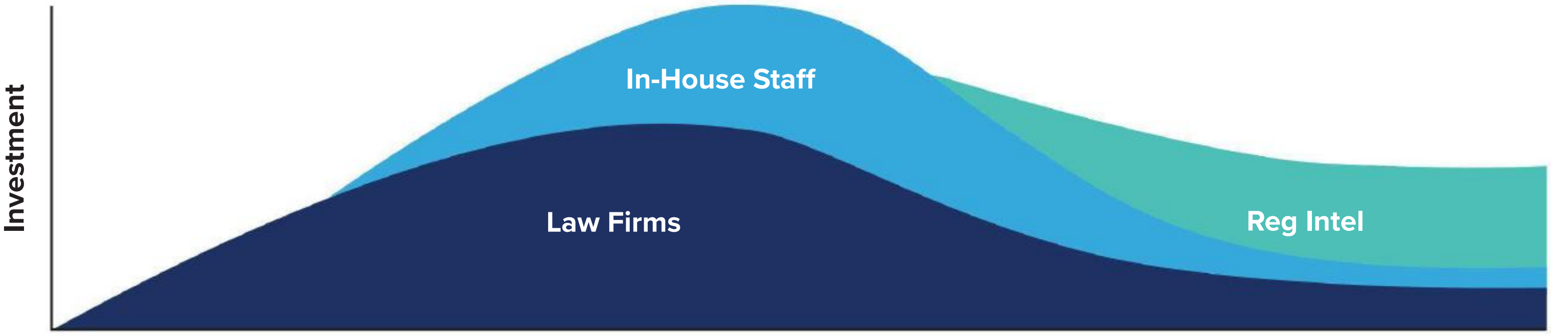
2. ALSPs

The second path for regulatory tracking is to engage with alternative legal service providers (ALSPs), nearly a third of which offer some form of regulatory tracking. ALSPs are particularly useful where off-the-shelf products – such as regulatory intelligence tools – cannot meet the organization's needs.

"ALSPs are a cheaper option than law firms for regulatory tracking, but they may lack the necessary institutional knowledge to understand which regulatory topics are important to organizations. Additionally, the long

[Continued on page 30]

Figure 1: Evolution of Legal and Compliance Regulatory Intelligence Investments



Pandemic-Induced Law Firm Investments

- Law firms take on influx of tracking demands from organizations looking to manage pandemic-induced regulatory volatility.

Human-Capital-Complemented Investments

- Organizations begin looking for less costly regulatory intelligence strategy.
- In-house staff empowered to handle more regulatory intelligence demands while complemented with some regulatory intelligence tools (i.e. content feeds).

Technology-Assisted Regulation Intelligence

- As rate of regulatory change has not diminished, organizations begin investing in more sustainable strategy.
- To better support in-house staff, organizations are increasing their investments in advanced regulatory intelligence tools.

Source: Gartner (2022)

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Most Lawyers Want Options for Remote Work, Court and Conferences

A new survey suggests that stress, burnout, mobility and increased technological improvements are factors in these preferences, especially among younger professionals.

A recent national survey sponsored by the American Bar Association shows most lawyers want the option to work from home, including the opportunity to attend many court hearings, meetings, conferences and legal training sessions remotely. The survey focuses on hybrid and remote work; mobility of lawyers; stress and burnout; diversity, equity and inclusion; use of technology; and the types of bar association resources lawyers want.

Findings from the survey "Where Does the Legal Profession Go from Here?" also show remote options are especially important to young lawyers, 44% of whom said they would leave their jobs for a greater ability to work remotely. Also, a majority of lawyers said they preferred that bench trials, pretrial hearings, depositions and court-ordered mediations take place remotely.

"This report is a valuable follow-up to last year's "Practice Forward" survey, which offered guidance about the best path forward for the legal profession after the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic," said ABA president Deborah Enix-Ross. "With the new survey findings, we are seeing how lawyers want to work – with flexibility playing a key role for many as they transition back into the workplace."

@BullRun / Adobe Stock

The survey, commissioned by the Coordinating Group on Practice Forward, was conducted on behalf of the ABA last year by The Red Bee Group as a follow-up to last year's first Practice Forward survey. Responses this year came from 1,994 ABA members who work in jobs that require law degrees. Most lawyers who responded (75%) work in private practice.

Among the results:

- Most lawyers (59%) work more than 40 hours a week. More than 1 in 5 (22%) work more than 50 hours a week.
- The vast majority (87%) said their workplace allows lawyers to work remotely. About 30% of lawyers work from home almost all the time. Another 30% work in the office nearly 100% of the time.
- Women lawyers, lawyers of color, LGBTQ+ lawyers and disabled lawyers reported feeling more stressed and perceived as less competent at work than their colleagues; feeling unable to be their authentic selves at work; and receiving demeaning or insulting comments at work.
- Most lawyers reported that working remotely or on a hybrid basis has not adversely impacted the quality of their work, productivity or billable hours. This is particularly true for women lawyers, 56% of whom said that remote or hybrid working increased their ability to balance work and family obligations.
- A majority of respondents said that courts should allow remote court-ordered mediations (82%), depositions (88%), pretrial hearings (93%) and even bench trials (64%).

In light of the survey findings, the report also offers a set of recommended best practices for lawyers and legal employers in the workplace as well as the preferred resources lawyers would like to have from bar associations to help them navigate "the new normal."

Incubators for Change

The Important Role Richly Diverse Universities Play in Broadening the Base of Future In-House Counsel Candidates

Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the workplace matters. And it's not just about fairness or representation.

When workplaces become more diverse and inclusive, they also become more productive, positively impacting the bottom line. According to research, diverse companies enjoy two-and-a-half times higher cash flow per employee and diverse management results in a 19% increase in revenue.

As more businesses focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I), the trend is impacting in-house counsel as well. Not surprisingly, a study from 2021 found that 75.6% of general counsels are white, compared to 7.8% Hispanic or Latino, 6.4% Asian, and 5.6% Black. The ratio of male to female in-house counselors hovers just above 60:40, and the percentage self-identifying as LGBTQ+ is about 11%. Despite these positive trends, the need for greater diversity in the legal profession remains glaring.

The Importance of Widening the Lens When Seeking Diverse Candidates

As companies look to make strides towards diversity for in-house counsel offices or law firms, finding the best talent remains paramount. In the past, hiring would often be limited to candidates from Ivy League institutions. But with more jobs to fill, businesses are compelled to look more broadly for high-caliber, diverse attorneys.

It is incumbent on corporations and firms to widen their scope to find attorneys who not only are diverse but also bring a mentality of diversity and inclusion that can foster a culture of belonging, mentorship, growth, and change. Such professionals will be essential for continuing progress and instilling these values in the in-house counsel's office.

Photo: University of West Los Angeles School of Law

Diverse Legal Talent Hiding in Plain Sight

When sourcing diverse talent for in-house counsel jobs in the future, there is some good news. According to a Pew Research Center report, "Generation Z is the most racially diverse U.S. generation, with approximately 48% identifying as non-white."

As companies look to hire diverse attorneys for in-house counsel positions, there is a robust pool of highly qualified legal talent hiding in plain sight. Attorneys who have graduated from community-based law schools, such as the University of West Los Angeles (UWLA) School of Law, often bring a deeper understanding and commitment to the principles of diversity and inclusion because of their unique educational path.

One of the factors distinguishing UWLA is the institution's focus on the democratization of education. This attracts highly motivated law students who bring a unique perspective and life experience to employers. Richly diverse learning institutions, such as UWLA, are true incubators for attorneys who bring a broader range of views to the role of in-house counsel, which is foundational to a vibrant workplace.

Steady Progress Requires Diversity-Minded Leadership

While hiring diverse attorneys is important to fulfilling DE&I hiring objectives, finding in-house counsel to provide diversity-minded leadership is key to creating a culture that will grow and flourish.

"When law students are exposed to a diverse and inclusive learning experience, there is a greater opportunity for a transformative and lasting impression on the positive effects of an inclusionary workforce," explained Robert W. Brown, president of UWLA. "Graduates of law schools like UWLA come away with an experience grounded in the values of fairness, equity, and respect. These attorneys become the diversity-minded leaders of the future."

There are also practical aspects to this style of education. Law graduates from programs such as UWLA are experienced in multi-tasking while attending law school. Many go to school in the evenings while working full time and managing their families. These are skills attorneys must demonstrate in real work. Also, UWLA, in particular, is accredited by WASC and the California State Bar, providing an affordable legal education while sparing graduates from exorbitant debt.

"Providing access to higher education for a more diverse student body will inevitably incubate compassionate leaders who are sensitive to the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace," stated Perry Martin Jr., professor of Business and dean of DE&I and Transformation at UWLA.

"Transformative and DE&I leadership-oriented colleges and universities that recognize, value and embrace the opportunity they have to plant seeds of justice into their students' minds will reap what they sow – the essence of DEI work: justice," Martin added.

A 'Closing Argument'

As companies look to expand the diversity of in-house counsel teams, there is a pressing need to find the most qualified talent reflecting the DE&I values of the business. Rather than focusing on attorneys from marquee educational institutions, it makes sense to mine hidden gems from lesser known, for-profit universities.

"At UWLA's School of Law, our focus is on practical training and developing trailblazing attorneys our students are capable of becoming," concluded Jay Frykberg, dean of the School of Law at UWLA. "Our commitment to equity is reflected throughout our programs, student body and faculty. Many of our law school graduates are uniquely qualified to champion the important mission of embracing DE&I within and through the legal profession."

Learn more about UWLA at *uwla.edu.*

BIGGEST PRESSURES ON BUSINESS LAWYERS TODAY INCLUDE PACE OF CHANGE, COMPLIANCE COMPLEXITY AND TALENT CHALLENGES

The increasing complexity of compliance, new client expectations, talent challenges and productivity demands are pressuring legal professionals as never before, according to the findings of Wolters Kluwer's new global "Future Ready Lawyer" survey.

The survey also finds that more progress is needed as most legal professionals say they are not well-prepared to address key challenges and opportunities.

Challenged to keep up with emerging trends and escalating demands, legal professionals are increasingly turning to legal technology for help. Across Europe and the U.S., the investment and demand for legal tech solutions have accelerated, with technology now firmly at the center of improved performance, productivity, client-firm relations and talent expectations. According to survey findings:

- 91% of corporate legal departments are expecting their law firms to fully leverage technology.
- More than 80% of lawyers say it's of high importance to them to work for a tech-savvy law firm or legal department.
- The "Increasing Importance of Legal Technology" is a top trend for 79% of lawyers.
- 64% of legal departments and 63% of law firms will increase their software investments over the next year.

"Lawyers already work in a high-pressure environment, and the *Future Ready Lawyer Survey 2022* found that demands are growing as trends impacting the legal profession continue to accelerate," said Martin O'Malley, Wolters Kluwer Legal & Regulatory CEO. "The pressure further intensifies as only about one-third of lawyers say that they are very prepared to address these trends. As legal professionals look to bolster their capabilities, the survey found that – more than ever – organizations are turning to technology as a lever to improve performance."

The survey includes insights from 751 legal professionals across the U.S. and 10 European countries. In its fourth consecutive year, the survey offers a timely perspective with benchmark data pre- and post-COVID crisis on trends, capabilities and changes in the profession and examines how well-prepared organizations are to drive higher performance.

Key Survey Findings

The top trends expected to have the most impact across the legal sector over the next three years are:

- Increasing importance of legal technology – 79%
- Coping with increased volume and complexity of information – 79%
- Meeting changing client/leadership expectations – 79%

Just 36% or fewer lawyers say their organization is very prepared to keep pace with any of these trends.

New and growing areas in law are another big trend impacting lawyers:

- 77% report that coping with emerging and growing compliance areas, such as Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and data privacy, is a significant trend.

[Continued on page 58]

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Trademark 'TIPS' for Building Your Brand

A brand distinguishes your company or your goods or services from others – trademarks are intellectual property that protects valuable brand recognition.

While business owners have a lot to manage in providing valuable goods and services in the first place and then marketing to customers, evaluating the names, slogans, and images that make up your brand from a trademark protection perspective is critical.

In particular, giving some thought to what makes your brand unique – and partnering with experienced trademark counsel early on in that process to protect those unique aspects as trademarks – can pay off and avoid pitfalls down the line.

For the busy reader, here is a helpful acronym (TIPS) for how to approach trademark protection:

Think distinctive

Investigate the marketplace

Protect what's unique

Seek sound advice

Because strong trademarks are fundamental to eliciting, maintaining and potentially monetizing the goodwill of a brand, every business owner can benefit from implementing these steps.

(1) **T**hink Distinctive

One goal of a trademark is to tell consumers a given product or service comes from a particular source, so the strongest trademarks help consumers distinguish your brand from others on the marketplace. Any number of words or symbols (and even colors, smells or sounds) can be a trademark, so long as they serve "to identify and distinguish" you from your competitors per the Trademark/Lanham Act. For example, Farmers Insurance has trademarked not only their name but also the slogan "We are Farmers" and the accompanying jingle. The first step to trademark protection, then, is to think creatively about what makes your products or services stand out.

A unique name is a great starting place and has some obvious benefits as a potential trademark. For one, a name that is not being used by others will stand out from what else is on the market. Ideally, you could come up with a completely new word, as "Pepsi" did for soda, or apply a word that already exists to something that it's not normally used for, like "Apple" did for computers. In trademark law, we refer to these kinds of "fanciful" (i.e. made-up) and "arbitrary" (i.e. cross-applied) marks as having the most "conceptual" strength, as distinguished from "commercial" strength. A conceptually strong trademark is one that will stand out the most in the marketplace based on the name alone.

(2) **I**nvestigate The Marketplace

The next step after brainstorming words, slogans, imagery, etc. that will stand out is to check to make sure the trademarks you have come up with are, in fact, not being used by others. Early on in the process, you can check the United States Patent and Trademark Office's ("USPTO") public registry (*tmsearch.uspto.gov*) for business names registered in the state(s) in which you plan to do business, as well as run internet searches to see what else may be in the marketplace, just not registered.

It is important to remember that even unregistered trademarks will have priority – and potentially be able to sue you for infringement – if you start using the same or a similar trademark. As such, it is best to have a trademark lawyer or clearance service conduct a comprehensive search.

(3) **P**rotect What's Unique

Once you come up with a distinctive trademark and make sure it is not being used by others, you can protect it by registering it, using it, and making sure others do not use it. You can seek to register a trademark even before you start using it by filing an "intent to use" application with the USPTO, which secures your priority date as of when you filed the application. Even without registering a trademark, it will be protected as of the date you start using it in commerce, so you want to keep track of that date and evidence related to it, such as sales documents. But registering a trademark with the USPTO provides additional legal rights, making it easier to enforce your rights against infringers and to license your trademark to others.

What should you seek to register as a trademark? Again, potentially anything can serve as a trademark, but to ensure your application is successful – and the resulting trademark is as useful as possible – look to register what is most distinctive about your brand. While you can build up the commercial strength of a trademark over time by investing in marketing, the conceptual strength of a mark is basically fixed when you apply for it. A distinctive trademark is more likely to be registered, while one that is too descriptive of a product or service may not even function as a trademark at all. This makes it all the more important to select and seek to protect a conceptually strong mark from the start.

(4) **S**eek Sound Advice

Ultimately, there is no substitute for sound trademark advice from an experienced practitioner, ideally providing strategic insights for the long term based on understanding your brand and overall business. This article cannot provide that kind of tailored legal advice, but it is designed to give brand owners an overview of key steps to building a strong brand from a trademark law perspective. Make sure to seek help from a practitioner who has experience applying for trademarks to make sure your application is not held up, and that your mark is as valuable as possible when registered.

MEREDITH WILLIAMS (SIVAKUMAR)
Partner
Litigation and Trial

Meredith Williams, partner at Rutan & Tucker, LLP, focuses on representing and advising clients in protecting their intellectual property rights. Her practice emphasizes trademark and copyright litigation, trade secret misappropriation, false advertising, and unfair competition while advising clients how to promote and defend their brands and IP.

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Building Positive Impact in Our Communities

Now more than ever, it is paramount for businesses across industries to partner together to create a meaningful impact in our communities. With recent economic volatility and housing insecurity, companies including Nixon Peabody LLP and Genesis LA have committed to a positive impact by partnering on important initiatives that address the growing needs of our communities.

Economic conditions often present development challenges and disruptions. However, by teaming with community groups, public agencies, and private organizations, Nixon Peabody has helped devise creative alternative financing to move projects forward. This work is about much more than buildings – it's about creating spaces where vulnerable people in local communities can feel at home, learn and flourish.

One transformative example is a development underway along the Vermont/Manchester corridor. Nixon Peabody has worked with Genesis LA, the Los Angeles Development Fund, and additional stakeholders to help finance generational change in a South L.A. community blighted since the 1992 civil unrest. These transit-oriented developments (TODs) will serve as a valuable resource for this underserved community.

Building on a decade-plus relationship between Nixon Peabody, Genesis LA and the Los Angeles Development Fund, these projects began in 2021 with key financing combining new markets tax credits (NMTCs) and additional loans totaling approximately $95 million for SEED School of Los Angeles County (SEED LA), the first charter college-prep boarding school in California. SEED LA is part of the first phase of the LA County and LA Metro Vermont Manchester Transit Priority Project, which will transform an underutilized site the size of two city blocks.

Welcoming its first class of students in Fall 2022, SEED LA serves approximately 400 at-risk and resilient students from the South L.A. community to provide intensive education. Grades 9–12 curriculum focuses on career readiness in transportation, infrastructure, STEM and the humanities, with mentorships supporting future careers.

More recently, Nixon Peabody represented the Los Angeles Development Fund and Genesis LA, securing $135 million in financing utilizing NMTCs and other debt and equity facilities to fund Evermont, an under-construction development that includes 180 affordable housing units as well as grocery and retail. The site includes the SEED LA school, a transit plaza and a Metro training facility.

Evermont will transform a dirt lot into a community hub with affordable housing. Achieving objectives such as this requires collective buy-in and strategic financing options. We are committed to creating a positive impact in our communities and are proud to be a part of the team that helps move these developments forward in L.A. and beyond.

– Sonia Nayak, L.A. Office Managing Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP

ABA RELEASES REPORT ON BAR PASS DATA BY RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER

This April, the Managing Director's Office of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar released a new set of bar pass data for American Bar Association-approved law schools.

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The data provide national "ultimate" and first-time percentage pass rates based on race, ethnicity and gender.

The charts, which are incorporated into the section's Legal Education Statistics, include aggregate data in nine different ethnicity categories for information collected in 2022 and 2023 broken down by gender. The data was reported to the ABA by the 196 law schools accepting new students in their ABA Standard 509 questionnaire, which covers about a dozen categories, including employment and bar passage outcomes, among other areas.

Under the 2019 revisions to the bar passage rule known as Standard 316, ABA-approved law schools must have 75% of their graduates who take the bar examination pass within two years of graduation or face the potential

[Continued on page 35]

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Congratulations to **Steven Weisburd** for being recognized in the L.A. Times B2B Publishing *Business of Law Magazine* as a **2023 Legal Visionary**

Steven Weisburd has more than 30 years of experience litigating complex civil disputes, mass tort cases, and class actions for major corporate clients and product manufacturers, including high-profile cases of national and international significance with billions of dollars in potential exposure. Weisburd has developed a reputation for winning the unwinnable, and has become a go-to lawyer for clients seeking to derail bet-the-company litigation through tactically executed legal arguments and vigorous advocacy.

Recent recognitions:

- *Los Angeles Business Journal* 2023 Top 100 Lawyers
- 2023 BTI Client Service All-Stars
- 2023 *Chambers USA*, Product Liability & Mass Torts
- 2023 Legal Visionaries, Los Angeles Times B2B Publishing *Business of Law Magazine*

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LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The In-House Counsel Leadership Awards was held on May 4, 2023 at the Beverly Hilton. Here are some select photos from the night's festivities, which featured a cocktail mixer, an informative and fascinating panel, and the leadership awards ceremony honoring dedicated legal professionals.

2
TABLE
9
RESERVED

1. Tanja Olano of the LA28 Olympic & Paralympic Games is the honoree for non-profit counsel. **2.** The Change Home Mortgage table celebrates during the In-House Counsel Awards. **3.** Victoria Kettnitz of Ameriprise Financial and Njeri Mutura of Microsoft Corporation enjoy the event. **4.** Shawn White, General Counsel of Smith Family Circle, LLC and Desiree Talley, founder of Talley Law Group PLLC. **5.** Erin Fay of Atrispek and Arun Kurichety of Petalfast join nominee counsel Rasika Vasant Rathi of Specialty Enzymes & Probiotics and Anuj Bhalla of MIT. **6.** Attendees enjoy the cocktail reception prior to the panel and awards. **7.** Rob Rader of Ovation LLC joins honoree Jackie Hayes of Warner Bros. Discovery and Ismael Bautista of SoCal Gas. **8.** Melineh Ohanian of Fender accepts the award for honoree Aarash Darroodi from presenter Gloria Lee. **9.** The group from University of West Los Angeles, including panel member Robert W. Brown Esq., poses before the awards ceremony. **10.** Attendees await the fascinating panel session and dinner. **11.** Carita Shanklin Walker of Shell Recharge Solutions displays her award for small public company counsel. **12.** Jason Weintraub of the Jacuzzi Group smiles with Phillip and David Spector of ThirdLove.

What Influence Will AI Have on the Legal Profession?

During the In-House Counsel Awards presentation, attendees were treated to an expansive and fascinating conversation about one of the hottest topics affecting the legal world and beyond: the adoption and proliferation of AI in the commercial sphere. The panel was filled by three visionary experts on the topic: Dan Czerwonka of Varda Space Industries, Joshua Walker of System Legal, and Robert W. Brown of UWLA, and was moderated by Gloria Lee of Rutan & Tucker, LLP. Below are the need-to-know insights from the discussion.

MODERATOR

Gloria Lee

Client Relations Partner

Rutan and Tucker, LLP

Gloria Lee is the client relations partner of Rutan & Tucker, LLP, one of California's largest full-service law firms. She has been named a Super Lawyer for 10 years and one of Southern California's most powerful and influential leaders by the California Diversity Council. Lee is a graduate of Stanford University and UC Berkeley School of Law. In addition to serving on several national nonprofit boards, she serves on the public company board of directors for Hanmi Bank.

PANELIST

Robert W. Brown

President

University of West Los Angeles

Robert Brown is the president of the University of West Los Angeles and its School of Business and School of Law. UWLA offers access to opportunities in higher education for those from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds. During Brown's tenure, he's overseen an overhaul of the university's mode of providing quality legal and business education – effectively democratizing education.

PANELIST

Dan Czerwonka

General Counsel

Varda Space Industries

Dan is the General Counsel of Varda Space Industries, the newest space start-up from Peter Thiel's Founder's Fund that will be launching its first spacecraft on June 10. Prior to joining Varda, he spent several years overseas building Zipline, the first drone company to achieve unicorn status and currently valued at $3 billion. Today, Zipline delivers thousands of critical medical supplies daily in eight countries on three continents.

PANELIST

Joshua Walker

CEO and author of "On Legal AI"

System.Legal

Joshua Walker is the CEO of System.Legal and the author of "On Legal AI" (Fastcase 2019). He also co-founded and originally led Lex Machina and CodeX: The Stanford Center for Legal Informatics. He received his A.B. from Harvard and his J.D. from The University of Chicago Law School. Walker has been trying to use data and law to help folks since he was fifteen, starting with human rights projects in Bosnia, Northern Ireland, and Rwanda.

Shared Insights *from the* EVENT

How is AI affecting the practice of law in which you work?

Brown: In the education industry, we're trying to determine what the impacts are going to be. Ironically among educators, believe it or not, it's very difficult to break down the resistance to AI. So one of the first things that I did was convene a meeting with our faculty to challenge them on how we should employ AI into our curriculums so that we can help our students.

Walker: This has been a long time coming. We've been seeing AI applications in litigation and contracts for maybe 10 years, 15 years, or so. But I think there's a storm coming – there are some changes that are going to be happening and you have to maintain the best of what you're doing and be at the very cutting-edge of what's going on.

Czerwonka: As a large language model, AI is only as good as what it takes in – a lot of times it can give you really interesting things that sound right, but they're actually just flat wrong. You can have it draft a form for you and it likely gets 60% right, but then you still have to go in and put in what you want.

How do regulators expect to keep up with the speed and scale of AI in real time?

Walker: I think that there's big dangers with regulation. One is overregulating – if you regulate something too much, you can wipe out trillions of dollars of economic activity. The other side is not regulating at all, and you have dangers for kids and other people who are vulnerable – these programs speak with great authority.

Brown: Part of the problem with AI right now is that it's still in such infancy that we don't know which parts of our lives are really going to be affected. So, It's first and foremost trying to determine how it is going to evolve.

What are the implications of AI when it comes to intellectual property and privacy concerns, both corporate and personal?

Czerwonka: On a business level, the first thing I would say is to anonymize what you put into any prompt, whether it's your data or your clients' data. This is doubly true of trade secrets or any other sensitive data. The other issue is that if you want to maintain trade secrecy, it has to, of course, stay a secret. So if you put it into a program like AI and other people see it, then you've lost that advantage.

Walker: Engineers in South Korea have been using ChatGPT to redesign proprietary circuitry – apparently, it did a really good job. But unfortunately, that specialized data is taken and it goes back into this gristmill that is used to help the AI work better in the future. AI is just math, and that data is the information that it's ingesting.

Are there any real fears to face when it comes to AI implementation?

Czerwonka: I think GPT and AI programs are going to just support lawyers, and I don't think there's anything to be afraid of in the legal world. If we're talking about the bigger picture, I think it is kind of interesting that AI has figured out how to ask third-party programs to hire people to do things that the program itself is not allowed to do – that's pretty weird, and I don't know where that goes.

Walker: There's no question If lawyers just bury our heads in the sand and ignore this stuff, I think that's dangerous. The other big fear I have is that we don't. If we don't grasp our ability to help people much more and at a much better scale – according to analysts, 80% of legal demand in California is not met. So if you have a super machine that's going to improve your ROI or your ability to deliver for your corporate clients you have to use it – but also we have to think about how to do that responsibly.

What are some other examples of how our audience can take advantage of these technologies?

Brown: Bringing our professors up to speed on how to actually teach the law or teach business, as in the case in our business school, there's a pedagogy that goes along with actually learning how to teach, and I think that AI will be very instrumental in helping our professors. There are a lot of people who are subject matter experts, but perhaps don't have great teaching skills. I believe that AI will be very effective and instrumental in bringing those subject matter experts up to speed on how to actually be a professor.

Walker: A lot of the big traditional New York law firms have started to use AI much more productively now, and I think that's a sea change. If you can get your prices down, you can do twice as much work. Audit companies and consulting companies can review contracts about eight times faster now – actually, it's probably more than that. If you can be eight times more productive for the second- and third-year associate level, you kind of have to do it. In the long run, it's dangerous not to take advantage of that.

In-House Counsel Awards

Private Company: Small 0-100 Employees

HONOREE

Kiran Jain

Chief Legal Officer

Replica, Inc.

Georgetown University

Kiran Jain is an effective, strategic business and legal leader with broad executive experience in the technology and government sectors. In addition to serving as chief legal officer of an Alphabet-backed technology venture, she has served as COO, chief strategy officer, board member, and investor (Third Sphere) at several other government and climate technology companies, as well as a senior deputy city attorney (City of Oakland) and CEO of a non-profit organization (Oakland Fund for Public Innovation) focused on innovative public-private partnerships. Early in her career, she served as the founding attorney for Kiva.org, the world's first internet microfinance platform, which has raised over $1 billion to alleviate poverty. Jain designed the legal strategy that allowed the company to come to market quickly and safely.

For nearly three years, she has served on Replica's founding team, which focuses on providing privacy-first mobility, demographic, land use, and economic data to drive better decision-making around the built environment. In the past 12 months, as Chief Legal Officer, Jain has created and executed the company's public policy strategy, including its legislative and policy agenda, to support the company's strategic business priorities and help direct millions of federal dollars to data-driven state and local infrastructure projects. In the last 12 months, she developed and recruited a government affairs team to directly manage local, state, and federal relationships and identify business risks and opportunities from pending policy, legislative, regulatory, and procurement initiatives. Today, GAPP's efforts cover nearly 20 states in the U.S. representing over $100 million in business opportunities.

Jain is a motivated problem solver. For the past five years, she has focused her legal and policy skills to build technology products that improve government operations and efficiency. Her legal work has ranged from designing resilient financing strategies, deploying affordable broadband, decarbonizing California's housing sector, and producing safe and reliable data needed to deliver more equitable and resilient infrastructure. Through this work, Jain was recently appointed to the State of California's Green Bond Market Development Committee by the State Treasurer to more intentionally inform environmental, social, and governance practices for the $4 trillion municipal bond market in the United States.

Congratulations to
Wendy Pizarro, Esq., our
Chief Legal Officer &
Chief Diversity Officer

Calidi Biotherapeutics congratulates
Wendy Pizarro, Esq. for being recognized
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Wendy Pizarro

Chief Legal Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Diversity Officer and Corporate Secretary

Calidi Biotherapeutics, Inc.

Harvard Law School

Wendy Pizarro has served as Calidi's chief legal officer, chief diversity officer, chief administrative officer, and corporate secretary since 2021. She is considered a role model for women and people of color as a seasoned corporate attorney, business leader, and digital health advocate. She is passionate about Calidi's mission to cure cancer and fight disease using its innovative stem cell delivery platform.

In her hybrid roles on Calidi's executive leadership team, Pizarro is responsible for the company's global legal strategy and implementation. Furthermore, she is the company's lead in shaping external and internal policies in recruitment and marketing related to furthering principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the company's strategic plan and clinical trial design, and development.

Todd Rosen

General Counsel

Main Street Advisors

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Todd Rosen has a broad legal and finance background. He started as a corporate and tax lawyer, then left law for a few years to work as an investment banker. He returned to law joining Munger, Tolles & Olson, where he became a partner. After 14 years at Munger, he joined Main Street Advisors as the firm's first general counsel.

Main Street Advisors serves as a strategic advisor to and invests capital for some of the most influential and accomplished people and businesses in media, music, entertainment, and professional sports. During his almost five years at Main Street, Rosen has been involved in all aspects of the firm's investment and legal functions and instrumental as Main Street has grown from ~$4.0 billion of AUM to over ~$8.5 billion of AUM, including the recent closing of the firm's second private equity fund with over $1 billion of committed capital.

Melissa Slawson

General Counsel and VP of Government Affairs and Education

GeoLinks

California Western School of Law

With more than 15 years of legal experience in the telecommunications regulatory field, Melissa Slawson is the general counsel and vice president of government affairs and education at leading enterprise-level telecommunications company GeoLinks. Since 2017, she has been the company's general counsel, overseeing all legal and regulatory matters. As part of her role, she tracks policies and legislation that may affect GeoLinks' business and advocates before various regulatory bodies such as the FCC.

Slawson has had a significant impact on GeoLinks' accelerated growth and success. Beyond single-handedly pioneering the entire in-house legal department and company legal policies, she has also been solely responsible for developing expertise regarding FCC broadband deployment funding auctions.

Jason Weintraub

Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel

Jacuzzi Group

UC Berkeley School of Law

Jason Weintraub is chief legal officer and general counsel of Jacuzzi Group. Providing innovative wellness solutions to customers in more than 60 countries, Jacuzzi Group is the premier manufacturer of hot tubs, swim spas, bathtubs, saunas, and other products for the home and outdoors. He excels at building, developing, and inspiring his legal team.

Jacuzzi Group has grown dramatically over the past few years, and Weintraub has managed to restructure the department and add talent while keeping headcount growth to a minimum, all while establishing benchmarks for the company. He has led the deal team on multiple acquisitions, including taking a deal from start to finish in his first three months at Jacuzzi. This deal allowed Jacuzzi to enter the bath remodel business, which is now one of its fastest-growing segments, with revenue growth over five times since the deal closed less than two years ago.

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GeoLinks congratulates Melissa Slawson for being recognized as a Finalist for the 2023 In-House Counsel Awards produced by L.A. Times B2B Publishing & Events

In-House Counsel Awards

Private Company: Midsize 101-300 Employees

HONOREE

Phillip Louis Spector

General Counsel, CLO

ThirdLove, Inc.

Harvard Law School

Phil Spector was born to a working-class family in Los Angeles and grew up reading every page of the Los Angeles Times. He quickly rose in high school (valedictorian) with a full scholarship to UC Santa Barbara and then onward to Harvard Law School, where he was both the Supreme Court note editor and Harvard Law Review editor. He served eight years as the GC and board member of Intelsat out of Washington D.C., an organization with thousands of employees and billions in revenue. Spector successfully guided the organization to raise billions of dollars and two different sales to private equity.

Spector joined ThirdLove initially to help the company out during a period of rapid breakneck growth, but quickly it was apparent he was needed full-time and very much in an operating role helping to build the company, playing a role that encompasses much more than a typical GC. For much of his tenure at ThirdLove, he concurrently served in the role of helping lead HR and strategy and guiding board members, founders and the CEO on the best path forward for a variety of business decisions — decisions far beyond those typically addressed by a general counsel.

In the past two years, Spector has guided the company in a variety of litigation and employment matters. Being a $100+ million-dollar revenue business, mostly online but with 10 stores across the country all requiring their own unique employment laws and raising $70 million in venture capital (Spector also handles all IR), ThirdLove finds itself in the crosshairs of numerous litigations, employment matters, and investor issues. Currently and interestingly, a high-profile personality is suing ThirdLove for breach of contract despite there never being a "contract" in place with her to be an influencer for the brand. Also, the company has sued one of its main manufacturing partners for millions of dollars and successfully settled after going to federal court. This was a highly complex case that required Spector to carefully maneuver the organization through. The company manufactures massive amounts of product annually, requiring complex contracts with the Chinese which Spector handles.

Private Company: Midsize - Finalists

Stephen Daryl Chu

Chief Legal and People Officer

InStride

Columbia Law School

Stephen Chu graduated from Columbia Law School in 2009, clerked for Central District Judge Gary Feess in Los Angeles, worked a few years at the Los Angeles office of Gibson Dunn, went in-house at CBRE under Stephen Ballas (Deputy GC) and Larry Midler (Global GC) and became a general counsel in 2018 at Zwift, a VC-backed start-up based in Long Beach that gained unicorn status during his time there. The company grew from 125 employees to over 600. Chu was the first person in Zwift's legal department, grew the team to 10 legal and compliance professionals in 2022 as he managed all legal, compliance, and risk matters.

Chu moved to InStride as chief legal and people officer in August 2022, a TPG-backed start-up based in Downtown Los Angeles. InStride has 160 employees total, and Chu manages a small three-person legal team and an 11-person HR department.

Jason Lee

Chief Legal and Compliance Officer

Lido Advisors

Santa Clara Law

Jason Lee joined Lido Advisors, an SEC-registered investment manager, as a partner in 2017 and currently serves as the firm's chief legal and compliance officer. When he joined Lido, the firm employed about 30 people, primarily in Los Angeles, and managed about $2.7 billion in assets. Now, Lido has offices throughout the country, 150 employees, and manages about $12 billion in assets. Lee has played critical roles in Lido's tremendous growth and development and has overseen the firm's administrative, operational, legal, and regulatory functions.

Lee has dedicated his professional career to public service. As president (chair) of the State Bar of California, he was instrumental in securing diversity and inclusion efforts in the agency's core mission. Prior to his service at the State Bar, he served as chair of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation, presiding over the body responsible for vetting and rating trial and appellate appointments.

Holly Jean Logue

General Counsel

Holmusk

The University of Michigan School of Law

Holly Logue received her law degree from the University of Michigan and her MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. She has leveraged this dual training to advise innovative companies on both legal issues and business strategy throughout her career. As general counsel, she practices across a broad range of legal areas but has focused her practice for over two decades in the healthcare space, including data science, biotech, pharma, medical device, and diagnostics companies.

Logue is currently the general counsel and an executive team member at Holmusk Technologies, a global, real-world evidence and data analytics company that seeks to revolutionize research and care delivery for behavioral health. She is committed to guiding Holmusk in realizing its mission by leading the legal function of the company.

Delphina Yuen

General Counsel

Outschool, Inc.

Syracuse University College of Law

Delphina Yuen's career has centered around making the world a smaller place through technology. After her clerkship for the Superior Court of Delaware and a short stint at a boutique litigation firm, she joined her first technology start-up. She then joined Lyft, Inc. in 2015 where she helped to shape, execute, and build a global legal strategy for Lyft's products and services.

Yuen's current role as general counsel of Outschool, Inc. integrates her background and passion for both education and technology. Outschool is an education technology company with a mission to inspire kids to love learning. In her first year, she tackled complex legal and policy issues around the gig economy and education to bring supplemental education opportunities to kids around the world. Her team also worked to build an innovative privacy and safety program to keep kid data secure and kids safe on the platform.

WEDBUSH

CONGRATULATES

JOHN ERIKSON, ESQ.

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In-House Counsel Awards

Private Company: Large 301-1,000 Employees

HONOREE

John L. Erikson

Senior Vice President and Head of Legal

Wedbush Securities

UCLA School of Law

John Erikson is currently senior vice president, assistant secretary, and corporate counsel for Wedbush Securities Inc., a Los Angeles-based full-service securities broker-dealer. He is an integral part of a five-attorney in-house legal department that handles most of the firm's legal matters. His role includes handling litigation, regulatory, and transactional matters for the firm, and providing counsel to the firm's management committees, as well as the boards of both the firm and its parent company, Wedbush Financial Services, LLC.

Erikson was born in San Mateo and moved to Los Angeles in 1982. He went to college at UCLA, majoring in English, and graduated cum laude. He spent two quarters studying in (then) Leningrad (and was there when they voted to change the name to St. Petersberg). After college, he went to the UCLA School of Law, graduating in 1996. He spent the next 14 years at the law firm of Jones, Bell, Abbott, Fleming & Fitzgerald. At Jones Bell, Erikson spent seven years as an associate and seven more as a partner, with a general practice focusing on securities litigation. His father had been general counsel for Los Angeles-based Great Western Bank, and he followed in his footsteps in 2011 by going in-house with Wedbush.

Erikson handles a wide variety of litigation matters for his firm. He has primary responsibility for handling numerous litigation and arbitration matters, including FINRA arbitrations, state and federal court cases, and state court appeals, defending against investor-related claims of suitability, failure to supervise, inadequate due diligence, and fraud, along with various employment claims. Highlights include dismissal of a $4-million FINRA arbitration claim on a motion to dismiss; dismissal of a $750,000 insurance procurement claim in federal court; complete defense verdict in an employee/independent contractor misclassification claim; highly favorable decision in a $5 million constructive discharge claim; and a $0-settlement of a $1-million case of purported whistleblowing filed in both state and federal court. In addition, although most cases are handled by the firm's legal department, Erikson manages some matters referred to outside counsel.

Private Company: Large - Finalists

Bernadette Michelle Chala

Chief Legal Officer

Arbonne

UCLA School of Law

Bernadette Chala started her career as a judicial law clerk, moving to private practice, and then began her career as general counsel to help steer her company through a strategic transaction. Upon successfully closing the transaction, she moved to Arbonne International where she became the chief legal officer and once again steered her company through a successful transaction.

Currently, Chala leads the legal, compliance, government relations and policy, and scientific affairs teams at Arbonne. She successfully converted Arbonne to a for-profit public benefit company and was part of a team that obtained B Corp recertification in 2023 – achieving one of the highest scores of any company in Arbonne's industry at 119 points. Believing that every team can do its part to support Arbonne's B-company philosophy, Chala spearheaded a project to ensure that all legal vendors demonstrated a commitment to DEI.

Derek Huoth

General Counsel

Tastemade

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Derek Huoth is general counsel and secretary at Tastemade, a modern media brand that creates award-winning video content and original programming in food, home, and travel primarily for millennial and GenZ audiences. In addition to all legal and business affairs, he has also been involved in people operations, corporate development, and international matters at Tastemade. He's an active participant in the company's mentorship program, which he helped design.

Huoth is a leader, a coach, and an overall force within Tastemade. He has made it his personal mission that his internal clients at the company feel that working with Tastemade lawyers is as enjoyable as watching their content, putting extra emphasis on storytelling, community, and ownership of outcomes.

Alan Wayne Lindeke

Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel

Change Home Mortgage

Washburn Law

Alan Lindeke is a strategic, results-driven counselor with an extensive background in contract negotiations, mortgage banking, corporate law, and regulatory compliance. With more than 20 years of industry experience specializing not only in the legal aspects of the mortgage business, he also has extensive knowledge of every aspect of the mortgage business including origination, underwriting, funding, and secondary market transactions.

In his current role as general counsel and chief legal officer for Change Home Mortgage, he maintains direct oversight over legal, vendor management, quality control, licensing, and compliance. He also represents his clients in connection with secured financings, structured warehouse facilities, and whole loan and mortgage servicing rights sales.

Colin Morris

General Counsel

Tebra Technologies, Inc.

UC Berkeley School of Law

Colin Morris is a highly competent leader with in-depth public and private company experience in all matters that could conceivably arise during the lifetime of a corporation. This includes mergers and acquisitions, equity and debt financings, initial public offerings, technology agreements, intellectual property portfolios, compliance in regulated industries, human resource matters, activist investors, proxy contests, and shareholder class action lawsuits.

Over the last two years, Morris has guided Tebra through a major period of transition, culminating in a merger of equals. This process included such challenges as re-aligning equity plans, securing new financing amid a tumultuous economy, and navigating increased scrutiny of the medical SaaS industry by government regulators. He has demonstrated the highest levels of integrity, ethics, and business acumen drawing on over 20 years of experience, including 11 years as a public company general counsel and over eight years as a corporate securities attorney.

Private Company: **Enterprise** Over 1,000 Employees

HONOREE

Aarash Darroodi

EVP & General Counsel

Fender

Georgetown University

Aarash Darroodi brings a wealth of knowledge and global experience to Fender Musical Instruments Corporation (FMIC), one of the world's leading musical instrument manufacturers, marketers, and distributors, transforming music history since 1946. In his current role as executive vice president and general counsel at FMIC, he is responsible for all global legal needs across FMIC, including mergers and acquisitions, compliance, litigation, intellectual property, corporate governance, advocacy, and risk management. Darroodi continues to serve as an officer on the board of directors for FMIC. In 2022, he was appointed as president of the Fender Play Foundation, the brand's public charitable organization on a mission to equip, educate, and inspire the next generation of players through music education.

At the mere age of seven, Darroodi had already visited or lived in over 35 countries, shaping his global and cultural knowledge. He has applied this wealth of life experiences to work seamlessly within FMIC across multiple countries and cultures, including the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Australia. Bringing these diverse perspectives to his role as EVP and general counsel, his work has led to the largest acquisition in FMIC's history of PreSonus Audio Electronics, support of the $800-million California Proposition 28 Music and Arts Education Ballot Measure, and spearheading legislative initiatives to bring about changes to CITES and other compliance requirements for the company's global manufacturing, logistics, and sales operations. Furthermore, he negotiated and inked deals with all major music publishers in support of Fender's online digital learning application, Fender Play, including Universal Music, Warner/Chappell, Sony Music Publishing, and BMG, and also led the organization's global COVID-19 compliance program by navigating one of the most challenging regulatory environments impacting all aspects of Fender's business globally including manufacturing operations, supply chain, and employment operations.

A big proponent of technological change and innovation, Darroodi is currently focused on expanding the reach of Fender Play and other digital initiatives across the borders of the U.S. and Europe, including entry into untouched territories such as Japan, China, and South Korea.

Waymaker congratulates Zag Entertainment's Benjamin Johnson and all In-house Counsel Leadership Award nominees.

WAYMAKER

In-House Counsel Awards

Private Company: Enterprise - Finalists

Bill Berry

General Counsel
Verkada
University of Virginia School of Law

Bill Berry is general counsel at Verkada, a disruptor in the physical security space that is valued at more than $3.2 billion. He brings two decades of experience leading legal teams at Tesla and Google, as well as at Quinn Emanuel and the SEC. He built Verkada's legal department from the ground up and has played an integral role in Verkada's rapidly growing business.

Shortly after joining, Berry had an immediate impact when Verkada secured two big wins in pending patent litigation with Motorola (effectively resulting in a certain victory for Verkada on all material aspects of the case) and an early dismissal of a patent troll lawsuit. He also spearheaded the company's patent strategy, securing its first patents, and laying out a strategic roadmap to expand its portfolio. Also, Berry played an important role in Verkada's Series D fundraiser in 2022 just months after he started at the company.

Mauricio Fux

Senior Executive Vice President & General Counsel
Curacao
Stanford University Law School

Mauricio Fux has had over 36 years of legal experience and since 1999 acted as general counsel for Curacao, the largest Hispanic-serving retailer on the West Coast, with department store locations in California, Nevada, and Arizona. As senior executive vice president and general counsel for Curacao, he leads all aspects of the company's legal department in addition to various ventures and investments. He also heads the company's real estate division, supervising and managing Curacao's expansion, and acquiring new retail properties, including two locations in San Diego, California and Tucson, Arizona set to open in 2023.

From both a business and legal perspective, Fux has led the company through several rounds of financing, corporate transactions, and growth. In addition, he has been responsible for successfully managing significant and complex litigation. He also has over 20 years of experience in consumer finance and retail.

Ashley Wilson

Global General Counsel
Lifelong Learner Holdings
Ohio State University

Ashley Wilson has been practicing as a corporate attorney since 1997 and has worked for companies with financial sponsors (private equity and home office) since the late 2000s. During this time, she became a generalist with experience in tech, retail, privacy, compliance, HR, and more. She has been a GC since 2012 but counts her current position as global general counsel at Lifelong Learner Holdings as her most challenging and gratifying.

Lifelong Learner currently holds two companies – PSI Services and Talogy – both of which are testing companies for over 70 years and operate worldwide. When Wilson joined the company, it had just doubled its size due to two major acquisitions. She was able to build a global team to service the companies while it was in hyper-growth mode. She headed 21 acquisitions over two years, increasing EBITDA by nearly 40%, and headed up the security and compliance group for two years.

Vanessa Wu

General Counsel
Rippling
UCLA School of Law

Vanessa Wu is general counsel at Rippling, where she oversees legal and compliance. At Rippling, she has been one of the driving forces behind its global expansion, advising on compliance and hiring practices across the United States, Canada, EMEA, and APAC as the company has grown from 100 to nearly 2,000 employees across a dozen countries.

Over the past few years at Rippling, Wu realized that being a multi-national company is no longer just an enterprise-level concern, but also an issue for small- and medium-sized businesses. She has worked closely with product teams to transform these learnings into the development of Rippling's Global Payroll, Employer of Record, and HRIS products, which allow customers to compliantly hire and manage global workforces without extensive legal, tax, accounting, and HR resources. Previously only available to enterprise companies, this functionality has democratized talent and infrastructure for companies of all sizes.

Education and Non-Profit - Finalists

Carla Ford

General Counsel
U.S.VETS
Georgetown University

With more than 30 years of experience, Carla Ford has a background in diverse industries. For 16 years, she served as an assistant United States attorney in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, where she represented the government in varied civil litigation practices. Afterward, she worked at Walmart Stores, Inc. as a senior member of its field-based Environmental Compliance and Ethics Team. Ford has also been in private practice at law firms in Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Pasadena.

Now, as general counsel for U.S.VETS, Ford uses the knowledge and networks she acquired in a broad variety of areas that include employment and human resources, risk management, litigation oversight, governance, contract formation, real estate development, and intellectual property. She is a trusted advisor to the board of directors and officers and a close partner with employees in U.S.VETS' mission to end veteran homelessness.

Nejmah Rabah Haddad

Country Representative
Rebuilding Alliance
Birzeit University

Attorney Nejmah Haddad plays a key role in Rebuilding Alliance as a country representative. There are three parts to her work: (1) managing Rebuilding Alliance's program grants, convening meetings with each of its Palestinian NGO partners, drafting and monitoring project grant agreements; (2) research and analysis to formulate Contact Congress requests for intervention; (3) representing Rebuilding Alliance in the U.N. Cluster forums, which are interagency efforts to develop a common strategy and rights-based analysis of the protection, shelter, health, or education needs of Palestinian communities.

Haddad is usually the first to respond to alerts from attorneys who represent the Palestinian villages and neighborhoods in the West Bank when urgent matters occur. As a lawyer, she readily communicates with lawyers and works with the towns and families who are directly impacted.

Jessica Waybright

General Counsel
Genesis LA
UC Law San Francisco

As in-house counsel for Genesis LA – a community development finance organization serving Los Angeles County – Jessica Waybright fuels the deals that help neighborhoods flourish. She is a savvy attorney and a consummate team player who doesn't shy away from complex legal challenges. Her leadership, knowledge, and deep commitment to the city of Los Angeles make her an ideal candidate for the L.A. in-house counsel leadership awards.

Waybright has focused much of her career on real estate law. After earning her JD, she worked as a real estate and transactional attorney where she drafted and negotiated agreements for businesses looking to buy, sell, or rent residential and commercial properties. This made her a natural fit for an in-house role at Genesis LA. There, she parlayed her business prowess into underserved and underinvested communities, providing a path toward greater equity and prosperity for local residents.

Education and Non-Profit

HONOREE

Tanja Olano

Chief Legal Counsel

LA28 Olympic & Paralympic Games

The George Washington University Law School

Tanja Olano is a trailblazing commercial attorney known for melding exceptional precision with extraordinary creativity. In her current role at the organizing committee for the LA28 Olympic & Paralympic Games, she leads work that is foundational to LA28's success, including commercial transactions, intellectual property, corporate governance, and real estate negotiations, plus oversight of the organization's human resources. From operations to marketing to impact, her leadership touches every functional area in the organization and is instrumental in positioning LA28 to deliver fiscally responsible, low-risk Games that leave a positive impact on Los Angeles. Olano joined LA28 in 2015 and served as the deputy general counsel for the LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Candidature Committee. This year she was appointed head of LA28's Human Resources department.

In her current role, Olano reports directly to LA28 CEO Kathy Carter and works closely with chair Casey Wasserman on board-related matters. In the last year, she has carefully architected one of the industry's leading legal teams, growing it from just four people to 13 and counting. She oversees every legal aspect of the organization, including commercial contracts covering sponsorships, licensing, and e-commerce; hospitality; Games planning and venue use agreements; and all organizational governance for the LA28 Board of Directors (including its committees) and the Board of United States Olympic and Paralympic Properties, LLC. Over the course of this past year, Olano has shown incredible growth and versatility as an executive, first overseeing the finance department during a period of executive transition, and then taking on oversight of human resources – doubling the team she leads and gaining responsibility for the ultimate hiring of thousands of employees over the life of the organizing committee.

Beyond her executive contributions, Olano has been fundamental to the commercial partnerships for the organization. In 2021, she drove contractual negotiations exceeding $1 billion in deal value, including the Comcast, Deloitte, and Salesforce sponsorships and for the first time ever, a deal with the IOC, IPC, and other organizing committees, to establish Endeavor's OnLocation as the global hospitality provider for the Games. In 2022, Olano oversaw the partnership negotiations with Hershey and global merchandise leader Fanatics.

Positive impact

Nixon Peabody congratulates Jessica Waybright for being named a **2023 Finalist**, and our NP LA Office Managing Partner, Sonia Nayak, on being recognized as a **2023 Legal Visionary**.

NP is proud to team with our clients to advance developments that make a positive impact on the LA community.

NP POSITIVE IMPACT

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In-House Counsel Awards

Public Company: Small Under 1,000 employees

HONOREE

Carita Shanklin Walker

General Counsel/Chief Legal Officer

Shell Recharge Solutions

UC Berkeley School of Law

Carita Walker is a strategic executive who provides operational and risk-based guidance to the CEO and members of executive leadership teams. She delivers expertise in environmental and regulatory compliance, permitting, and non-technical risks associated with multi-billion-dollar capital projects, corporate governance, and risk management. She also has numerous years of experience in commercial contracting, M&A, legislative and market development in nascent and novel industries, and technologies. Walker is passionate about creating scalable, innovative business solutions, building compliant, safe, and inclusive cultures, and the advancement of ESG (environmental, social, and governance).

Walker is the chief legal officer at Shell Recharge Solutions (formerly Greenlots) – a Shell company dedicated to unlocking the possibilities of the electric mobility future by delivering game-changing software and services at scale. She is an enabler of legal digitalization, innovation, and transformation to cement Legal's contribution to the scaling of the business.

In the two years that she has been in this role, Walker has achieved a number of notable accomplishments, including creating a legal team of five attorneys and a legal operating system to assist the business in meeting its goals. She routinely serves as a mentor to numerous other attorneys.

Previously based in Doha, Qatar, she led commercial transactions for Shell's operations in Qatar including Pearl GTL, the world's largest source of gas-to-liquids products, and was a member of the governance team for the Qatargas 4 LNG joint venture, a fully integrated liquefied natural gas project. She started her professional career because of her dedication to environmental justice. Today, she is part of the solution aiding Shell in the energy transition. Walker is also an acknowledged thought leader and active participant in DE&I efforts and is one of the architects of the Shell Global Legal DE&I Plan.

Walker did her undergraduate studies at Xavier University of Louisiana (a Historically Black College and University), studied at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, and obtained her law degree from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law.

Public Company: Small - Finalists

Vivian Kim

General Counsel, Corporate Secretary, and Chief People Officer

Hanmi Bank

UC Berkeley School of Law

Vivian Kim began her law career as an associate at Dykema Gossett, LLP in 2011, where she managed a wide range of complex business and intellectual property litigation matters, including patent, copyright, trade secret and right of privacy claims, class action defense, and real estate disputes. While at Dykema, she became involved in the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach.

After nearly six years at Dykema, Kim transitioned in house and began her career with Hanmi Bank and Hanmi Financial Corporation as corporate counsel. Over the past seven years, she has been promoted several times and expanded her role at Hanmi beyond serving as corporate counsel. Today, in addition to managing all legal operations for the bank and its holding company, Kim has taken a leadership role in advancing the company's public profile and philanthropic initiatives. She has also spearheaded the bank's ESG efforts.

Jeff Plumer

General Counsel

Evolus

UC Davis School of Law

Jeff Plumer serves as general counsel of Evolus, Inc., a performance beauty company with a customer-centric approach focused on delivering breakthrough products. He first joined and served as the vice president of legal since Evolus' initial public offering in 2018. He has been instrumental in achieving key company milestones, including the Evolus IPO and subsequent financing rounds to fund the commercial launch of its product, Jeuveau.

Plumer transferred to Evolus upon its IPO after serving as the vice president of legal to Evolus' sole stockholder from 2014 to early 2018 and was promoted to general counsel in October 2020. He has navigated challenging waters with the pandemic. His guidance was instrumental in an international product launch in 2022 and continues to assist with future launches.

Rasika Vasant Rathi

Vice President & General Counsel & Secretary

Specialty Enzymes & Probiotics

University of Michigan Law School

Rasika Rathi is a highly accomplished lawyer and board member of Specialty Enzymes & Probiotics, a group company of Advanced Enzyme Technologies. In her current role as general counsel of Advanced Enzymes, she has been instrumental in leading major projects and deals in the multi-billion dollar biotech/enzyme industry. She has played a key role in several successful acquisitions, including those of SciTech, Biomedic Labs, JC Biotech, and Evoxx (a German R&D firm), demonstrating her ability to navigate complex negotiations and regulatory compliance issues while enhancing the capabilities of her firm.

One of Rathi's most significant achievements has been taking Advanced Enzyme Technologies public. She played a critical role on the strategy team driving the company's IPO, which was oversubscribed by more than 116 times and received an overwhelming response from investors.

Franco Tenerelli

General Counsel

Landsea Homes Corporation

Loyola Law School

Franco Tenerelli is a proven business leader with a track record of strategic, practical, and professional counsel to Fortune 500 companies and start-ups. He has a depth of experience advising executives and boardrooms in a variety of legal disciplines including corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, litigation, compliance, and risk management. At his current employer, Landsea Homes, he is a member of the Landsea Executive Team, advising on all corporate initiatives. He is also a member of the Executive Land Committee, which oversees all real estate transactions, joint ventures, and financings.

Tenerelli created the Landsea Homes Legal and Risk Management departments from the ground up, setting the company's legal vision and implementing the requisite systems and procedures to handle exponential nationwide growth and entry into the public market.

In-House Counsel Awards

Public Company: Midsize 1,001-10,000 employees

HONOREE

Allen Z. Sussman

General Counsel
FAT Brands Inc.
Boston University

Allen Sussman became general counsel of FAT Brands Inc. in March 2021, after a 30-year career with the federal government and at major law firms. He initially served five years in government, first as a lawyer supervising savings and loans with the U.S. Department of Treasury, and then as an enforcement lawyer with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. At the SEC, Sussman worked in the task force that investigated and prosecuted violations in the banking industry. During his time in the government and law school, he also published articles on regulation and reform of the banking industry and an analysis of the regulation of junk bond investments in the Annual Review of Banking Law.

After five years of government service, Sussman entered private practice in Los Angeles in the mid-1990s. In private practice, he developed a recognized corporate transactional and securities practice in Los Angeles as a partner at Manatt Phelps & Phillis, Morrison & Foerster and most recently at Loeb & Loeb. In October 2017, Sussman handled the initial public offering of FAT Brands on NASDAQ, and in March 2021 joined as the company's first general counsel.

Since becoming general counsel of FAT Brands in 2021, Sussman organized a new legal department and managed the company's tremendous growth, during which time FAT Brands acquired multiple restaurant brands for over $1 billion and raised nearly $1 billion in new financing. The company has over 2,300 locations and is now a top 25 restaurant company with 17 iconic restaurant brands, including Round Table Pizza, Fatburger, Johnny Rockets, Marble Slab Creamery, Fazoli's, Twin Peaks, and Hot Dog on a Stick.

In 2022, Sussman also played a role in the founding of the FAT Brands Foundation, created to uplift and unite the communities in which FAT Brands operates. While the company's 17-brand portfolio is deeply rooted in charitable initiatives both locally and nationally, FAT Brands, as an organization, is seeking to magnify those efforts further. The 501(c)(3) organization is aimed at partnering with local non-profit organizations to provide essential programs to help families and communities thrive.

Public Company: Midsize - Finalists

Elina Avakian

Associate General Counsel
Snap Inc.
UCLA School of Law

Elina Avakian is an associate general counsel on the Platforms & Technology Commercial Legal team at Snap Inc. and has been with the company for over six years. Snap Inc. is the company that owns Snapchat, Bitmoji, and Spectacles and has over 5,000 employees worldwide. During her long tenure, she has worked on a broad range of commercial transactions that expanded across advertising, technology, hardware, gaming, partnerships, and others. She currently supports some of the most cutting-edge products in the tech space, including Snap's AR Enterprise Solutions, AR Mirrors, Snap Tokens, product partnerships, payments, and e-commerce.

As part of her work across Snap during the last 24 months, Avakian advised the company on a number of new product launches and partnerships, such as the launch of Snap Tokens, and negotiated deals with a variety of important partners, including Snap's partnerships with Tiffany & Co., Pinterest, and Spotify.

Gregory Jackson

Vice President, Litigation, Labor, and Regulatory
NuVasive
Penn State University, Dickinson School of Law

Greg Jackson has over 20 years of experience in law and has spent the past seven years dedicated to the medical device industry. He came to NuVasive in 2016 after accumulating corporate and commercial litigation experience in private practice at DLA Piper and as a partner at Bowman & Brooke. He learned early on the value of being a true advocate for your client, being responsive, and putting yourself in your client's shoes.

Jackson has supported and launched innovation within NuVasive – the largest spine-focused company in the world with more than $1 billion in net sales – which, in turn, has helped further advance the global spine market with the advancement of less invasive surgery. With seven years under his belt at NuVasive, he has proven himself an influential executive partner with a strong reputation for leading the litigation, labor, and regulatory teams with a people-first mindset.

Natalie Prescott

General Counsel
Fulgent
Duke University School of Law

Natalie Prescott joined Fulgent Genetics, a public company with well over 1,000 employees, in early 2022 in order to help start and build its legal department. Within six months, she was quickly promoted to GC. Under her leadership, Fulgent completed two significant acquisitions in 2022 and today has numerous subsidiaries under its umbrella.

Prescott quickly hit the ground running, building a brand new department from scratch, with a heavy focus on legal, compliance, and privacy issues. A seasoned litigator, trial lawyer, and certified privacy professional with IAPP and Privacy Law Specialist with the ABA, her legal and privacy skills have proven invaluable in fostering Fulgent's success and growth. With five direct reports, Prescott oversees a legal team that daily faces cutting-edge legal issues in the most complex areas of law, ranging from compliance to regulatory to cybersecurity and privacy to employment.

Pamela Anne Sergeeff

Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel
Freshworks Inc.
UC Berkeley School of Law

Pam Sergeeff joined Freshworks as chief legal officer and general counsel reporting to CEO and founder, Girish Mathrubootham, in April 2021. She leads the company's worldwide legal organization, responsible for corporate strategy, governance, securities law and product compliance, data protection, privacy, litigation, and intellectual property. Her team of 17 supports nearly 5,400 employees in 12 countries.

Prior to Freshworks, Sergeeff was the executive vice president, general counsel, and chief compliance officer at TiVo, leading worldwide legal affairs and operations. Bringing her 25 years of experience to Freshworks has positively impacted the company's transformation from a high-growth private start-up to a public company. Upon joining, she developed a plan of transformation to get Freshworks ready for operating as a public company.

In-House Counsel Awards

Public Company: **Large** Over 10,000 employees

HONOREE

Jackie Hayes

Executive Vice President of Legal for Studios & Networks

Warner Bros. Discovery

Harvard Law School

For 25 years, Jackie Hayes has played a vital role in shepherding the legal team for one of Hollywood's most iconic and oldest-running studios. As Executive Vice President of Legal for Studios & Networks at Warner Bros. Discovery, she provides strategic counsel to the company's leaders. Based in Los Angeles, she reports to Savalle Sims, general counsel of Warner Bros. Discovery.

Hayes' legacy WarnerMedia team navigated the intricate legal landscape surrounding AT&T's sale of WarnerMedia assets to Discovery, Inc. to form the new company, Warner Bros. Discovery. In a process that began in May 2021, she worked with legacy Discovery teams to achieve critical milestones and develop an integration process to bring the two companies together to create the premier, standalone global entertainment powerhouse.

In April of 2022, upon completion of the merger, Hayes' purview was expanded and now includes oversight of the legal function for Warner Bros. Pictures, Warner Bros. Television, the HBO and HBO Max programming units, as well as the Turner and Discovery Networks and programming units. She also supports the Worldwide Theatrical Distribution & Marketing, Warner Bros. Global Brands & Experiences, and the WB Games business units.

Prior to her role at Warner Bros. Discovery, Hayes served as executive vice president and general counsel of WarnerMedia Entertainment where in 2020 she was instrumental in launching the industry's newest streaming platform, HBO Max, during a pandemic nonetheless. Named to this role in August 2019, she was responsible for all of WarnerMedia Entertainment's legal affairs, including the linear businesses of HBO, TNT, TBS, and truTV, as well as Otter Media and HBO Max.

Joining Warner Home Video in 1998, Hayes provided legal support for the then-nascent DVD business. She went on to become a primary legal steward of Warner Bros.' transactional and subscription digital businesses – leading the first content clearance, digital licensing, and content protection initiatives for the online distribution of Warner Bros. titles – and was eventually named senior vice president and general counsel of Warner Bros. Home Entertainment in 2015.

Hayes obtained her Juris Doctorate at Harvard Law School.

Public Company: Large - Finalists

Ivana Cingel

Chief Corporate Litigation Officer, Global Head of Insurance, and Senior Vice President

AECOM

Yale Law School

Ivana Cingel is an experienced litigator who serves as chief corporate litigation officer, global head of insurance, and senior vice president at AECOM, the world's trusted infrastructure consulting firm delivering professional services throughout the project lifecycle – from planning, design, and engineering to program and construction management. She is a proud immigrant to the United States whose life and outlook have been shaped in large part by her experience as a child war refugee and as a young immigrant to the U.S.

As the chief litigator at one of the AEC industry's largest firms, Cingel sets and executes strategies for resolving the company's highest-value claims and litigation in a wide range of disputes covering multiple business lines – including transportation, water, power, oil & gas, and environment – around the world. She has delivered numerous successes that build on her reputation as one of the finest litigators in the industry.

Barbra Williams Diallo

Legal Director, Labor & Employment

CBRE

UC Law San Francisco

Barbra Diallo graduated from law school in 2006 and has had an impressive legal career since then. After working in law firms for about 12 years, she went from in-house to CBRE in November 2016, where she is currently responsible for global labor and employment matters for all business segments, including advisory services, global workplace solutions, and real estate Investments.

Diallo also manages Affirmative Action/EEO compliance professionals, resolution of pre-litigation matters and employment charges; labor arbitrations; internal audits; OFCCP audits; drafts agreements and updates to policies and procedures; provides training and strategic counsel to corporate leaders and partners in the People, Talent Acquisition, Compensation & Benefits, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and Compliance functions on a broad range of legal issues.

Lara Mackey

Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs

Paramount Global

Loyola Law School

Lara Mackey is a senior vice president in the legal affairs department at CBS Studios, which she joined in 2019. She works closely with departments across the company including business affairs, labor relations, participations, litigation, and distribution on a variety of legal issues including those involving new media, accounting, and intellectual property. In particular, she has taken on significant leadership responsibilities within multiple cross-functional/cross-disciplinary teams addressing cutting-edge, complex business, legal, and finance issues involving content distribution. In addition, over the last two years, Mackey has acted as the lead negotiator, closing several major settlements.

Prior to joining CBS Studios, Mackey was vice president in the litigation department at Sony Pictures Entertainment, working in areas from intellectual property rights to general corporate matters.

Njeri Mutura

Assistant General Counsel, Strategic Pursuits & Partnerships

Microsoft Corporation

University of Windsor

The in-house legal team that Njeri Mutura leads is tasked with supporting the top-tier strategic and complex technology transactions for the Americas at Microsoft Corporation, which typically translates to the largest deals the company sees globally. Her team is thoughtfully set up to enhance and support the objectives and priorities of the business. They ensure the rhythm of their operations is synchronized and aligned to that of the business and therefore actively participate in the cadence of key meetings so that they are walking in lockstep with their clients.

Mutura and her team have frequent touchpoints so that they understand and contribute to Microsoft's strategic discussions and have a view of established priorities, execution plans, and the deal pipeline. This puts her in a position to provide timely, effective counsel in a manner that contributes to optimal business results.

Rising Star

HONOREE

Annie Cheng

Vice President - Associate General Counsel

Hines

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Annie Cheng is a real estate lawyer at Hines who across her career has represented real estate companies and private equity firms in buying, selling, financing, and entering joint ventures in connection with properties across various asset classes, including industrial, multifamily (including student housing), self-storage, office, and hospitality.

She was born in Chengdu, China and immigrated to the U.S. at age seven. She grew up in Southern California and became the first "professional" in her family. As a teen, Cheng had wanted to be a corporate attorney after participating on her high school's mock trial team. But after interning at the Orange County Public Defender's Office at age 16, she decided she didn't want to practice criminal law. Instead, after attending the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School for a J.D. – where she graduated cum laude and was senior editor of the Penn Law Review – she decided on real estate law.

Cheng explained, "I saw Superman Returns, a pretty terrible movie that explores land issues. Land is a limited good, and humans cannot create more land unless they're Lex Luthor or otherwise exorbitantly wealthy." She realized as long as there is humanity, there will always be transactions involving land and real estate. "That disappointing movie had a big impact on me."

After graduation, she worked for nearly five years as a real estate associate at Latham & Watkins, before moving to Kirkland in 2017 to help Kevin Ehrhart establish the West Coast real estate practice of Kirkland & Ellis. Cheng was made a partner at Kirkland in 2018, then moved to Hines in September 2021 to take on the role of the firm's U.S. West Region's first legal in-house counsel.

It's been a busy first year at Hines. Cheng has headed the settlement of a years-long lawsuit, helped close several acquisitions, ventures, and financings across the West Region, started the legal intern program in the West Region, and launched a region-wide joint venture database. She also supported crisis management on several unprecedented events in 2022 that will lead to Hines having a stronger crisis management response program going forward.

GIBSON DUNN

congratulates

Lara Mackey,

a most deserving In-house Counsel Awards Nominee, for her amazing career and leadership.

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In-House Counsel Awards

Rising Star - Finalists

Ismael Bautista

Senior Counsel
Southern California Gas Company
UCLA School of Law

Ismael Bautista is senior counsel at the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), the nation's largest natural gas utility, where he provides invaluable strategic advice and counsel to mid- and senior-level management on matters ranging from clean energy projects to supplier diversity; he also represents the company before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). He has been instrumental in supporting SoCalGas's sustainability strategy which includes a bold commitment to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its operations and delivery of energy by 2045, mirroring California's own climate change goals. He has been his company's lead counsel in key matters and projects supporting such objectives.

For instance, Bautista represents SoCalGas in the CPUC's Biomethane Proceeding focused on (1) establishing procurement targets for renewable gas, which would displace traditional natural gas, and (2) whether hydrogen should be blended into the gas system.

Carter Goetz

In-House Counsel
Del Mar Seafoods
DePaul University College of Law

Carter Goetz began his law career in mergers & acquisitions (M&A) at Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC. In addition to his work as a corporate lawyer, he was also the legal partner for the Founder's Institute – a business incubator with chapters in over 180 cities, dedicated to turning ideas into successful businesses. At Howard & Howard, he was introduced to Del Mar Seafoods as a client and joined their team after falling in love with the company and the seafood industry. He was given a unique opportunity to come into a 40-year-old business as it started to transition its business model and pave the way for future growth.

As in-house counsel for Del Mar Seafoods, Goetz single-handedly worked to restructure the company's debt, reducing annual debt payments by 70%. His innovation, passion, and background in start-up environments have been instrumental to how he approaches and solves problems.

Greg Kerber

Divisional Vice President, Lead Counsel, and Assistant Secretary at TriNet
TriNet Group, Inc.
UC Berkeley School of Law

Greg Kerber is divisional vice president, lead counsel, and assistant secretary at TriNet and leads its corporate team within TriNet's legal, risk, government affairs, and compliance department. He has overall responsibility for the legal and corporate governance functions. He is a member of the senior leadership team and in that capacity helps plan and execute on TriNet activities in support of the company's mission and vision. Kerber has had a critical and far-reaching role at TriNet in his support of the board of directors and various subsidiary entities and in advising on a range of critical matters.

Kerber elevates his team and the organization through his exceptional work ethic, strong leadership, and innovative strategies to help TriNet mitigate risk and leverage opportunities. He is known for being detail-oriented, efficient, hands-on, business-oriented, reliable, and diligent.

Brandee Lattimore Strothers

Legal Counsel, Americas and APAC
Neutron Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Lime
Emory University School of Law

As a seasoned litigation attorney, Brandee Strothers is adept at identifying opportunities to explore and paths to mitigate risk, ensuring alignment with applicable legal and compliance requirements. With uncompromising integrity, she uses her industry experience and subject matter expertise to navigate challenging business climates, work with diverse stakeholders and clients, and represent her company, Lime, and clients with pragmatic optimism.

Strothers is a strong and personable, but also strategic business partner with over 14 years of firm and in-house litigation experience. She works hard as an assertive litigator who drives favorable results from her outside counsel. She provides data-supported advice to mitigate risk in the company and is organized, supportive, and builds culture with her teammates. She also makes efforts to strengthen and support Lime's culture by participating in employee ERGs and mentoring.

[Continued from page 6]

onboarding process associated with ALSPs can cause issues, especially when organizations need a quick turnaround to set up a regulatory intelligence program," said Sworek.

3. In-House Staff

In-house staff have deep institutional knowledge and a high degree of business acumen. They understand which regulations are important and what processes and policies need to be changed or created to meet new regulatory requirements. Using in-house staff also eliminates third-party involvement, creating more control over the process and ensuring flexibility during high-change periods.

"It seems like an ideal solution, except that without a much bigger pool of in-house resources than most legal and compliance functions possess, the scale of the task tends to overburden in-house staff," said Sworek.

"A 2021 Gartner study showed that over half of lawyers were at least moderately exhausted since the pandemic, so leaders must evaluate their staff responsibilities to ensure this is a sustainable option."

4. Regulatory Intelligence Technology

Some vendor-provided tools automatically track and notify of regulatory changes without human input. Through a variety of capabilities, regulatory tracking software aims to automate the regulatory tracking aspect by allowing them to track specific topics and/or regulations and by sending notifications when something changes (e.g., a regulatory agency adds a new rule to an existing regulation that an organization is tracking).

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"These tools are cost-effective for many organizations and offer a long-term solution to staying on top of regulatory volatility, while reducing the burden on in-house staff. They can also open opportunities to delegate parts of the regulatory intelligence program to business risk owners," said Sworek. "However, such tools still require a human to manage them, and the staff responsible will still face a potentially burgeoning workload as they integrate these tools into their workflows."

In-House Counsel Nominees

Private Company: Small

Casey Hineline Kempner

General Counsel
P&P Imports LLC
UC Davis School of Law

Casey Kempner has changed the game for P&P Imports LLC, and its headliner brand GoSports. Since joining the company in 2018, he was instrumental in building an immense intellectual property portfolio of patents, trademarks, and copyrights to give the company as many tools as possible to protect its innovations. Peter Tanoury and Peter Engler, the owners of P&P, are serial inventors that develop new products in the outdoor games and sporting goods space at rocket-ship speed. The constant innovation has seen Kempner expand the legal department to include a dedicated patent attorney and litigation counsel.

Kempner and his team ensure product integrity and take action against intellectual property infringement to keep unfair competition at bay. By understanding the product landscape, he provides the company with a clear path to build quality products in the Wild West of e-commerce where knockoffs run rampant and copycat companies stifle innovation.

Private Company: Small

Arun Kumar Kurichety

Co-Founder + COO/ General Counsel
Petalfast
Washington University School of Law

Arun Kurichety is a seasoned leader, corporate executive, and attorney with an entrepreneurial mindset. He possesses more than 15 years of corporate transactional/restructuring experience with a focus on the cannabis/CBD industry. As a cannabis industry veteran, he has advised numerous cannabis companies, from start-ups to public, in an ever-shifting regulatory landscape.

In 2020, Kurichety achieved his lifelong dream of starting his own company when he co-founded Petalfast, a go-to-market accelerator that helps cannabis brands achieve rapid growth and scale. As COO and general counsel for the privately held company, he bridges the gap between the legal and business spheres by "leading with the law" in the day-to-day management of the company. He has worked on structuring all aspects of the business, including notably leading four equity raises, several debt transactions, as well as over 50 customer partnership agreements in less than two years.

Private Company: Small

Kristyn K. Molina

Chief Legal Officer
GALT Aerospace
The George Washington University Law School

Kristyn Molina is the chief legal officer and acting director of contracts for GALT Aerospace. She was involved initially as an outside legal advisor, then as an employee since the company's inception in 2015. She takes great pride in helping to grow a start-up company, particularly in bringing on talented employees to build a successful team.

Within the last 24 months, Molina has continued building the legal department within a rapidly-growing Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned-Small-Business (SDVOSB). Among other things, she led the policy efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic, created a new parental paid leave policy, and is developing an employee-centered intellectual property protection program. She also handles all litigation and pre-litigation matters, managing outside counsel, and balancing business needs to best protect the company. Molina has successfully drafted, negotiated, and executed many lucrative prime contracts, as well as numerous subcontracts.

Private Company: Midsize

Jay DeGooyer

General Counsel
TigerConnect
UC Law San Francisco

Jay DeGooyer has proven himself to be a tremendous asset as the general counsel of TigerConnect. He hit the ground running in November 2021 and has been an integral part of the team that made incredible progress over the past two years. In his role, he works hand-in-hand with TigerConnect's Executive Leadership Team to cost-effectively address any number of issues, including corporate governance, ethics and compliance, cybersecurity and data privacy, intellectual property, labor and employment, dispute resolution, and initiatives related to insurance and risk management.

DeGooyer's diligence and hard work were rewarded when Vista Equity Partners invested in TigerConnect less than three weeks into his tenure. Not only did he handle the due diligence for this transaction, but he also created a thorough post-transaction plan for learning and implementing Vista's best practices. DeGooyer is always evaluating and measuring potential risks, looking to see what's around the corner.

Private Company: Midsize

Jonathan Michael Franz

Head of Legal
Crunchbase, Inc.
The Ohio State University

Despite being under 40, Jonathan Franz has already played a pivotal role in making major entertainment and architectural projects possible for clients like Warner Bros., Lionsgate, NBCUniversal, Google and Alibaba, and guided entities through significant financings, plus periods of exponential growth (including Crunchbase's 5.5X nnARR acceleration in software sales).

When he joined Crunchbase in May of 2020, the start-up was fresh off the heels of a $30 million Series C and was primarily a Data-as-a-Service provider. Franz partnered with the executive, marketing, product, and engineering teams to quickly pivot to the more profitable sales prospecting space with a multi-billion-dollar total accessible market. He helped the company close its recent $50 million Series D financing (Franz led legal due diligence and helped negotiate the Stock Purchase Agreement/Schedule of Exceptions). In addition, he closed licensing deals worth $6 million in nnARR over a span of two quarters.

Private Company: Midsize

Todd Hamblet

Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary
Fundbox
UC Law San Francisco

Todd Hamblet is the chief legal officer and corporate secretary of Fundbox. He oversees all aspects of legal operations at Fundbox and provides strategic advice to senior management. His responsibilities include corporate governance, strategic transactions and partnerships, product development, HR matters, government and regulatory affairs, and regulatory compliance.

Hamblet's early career spanned 14 years at international law firms where he maintained a general corporate practice with a focus on global capital markets, M&A, public company reporting and compliance, and corporate governance. He has advised on successful transactions throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Africa. In 2014, he joined Uber as its first corporate lawyer where he built a team that executed all of Uber's capital markets and global M&A transactions, including raising billions of dollars in equity and debt transactions, and closing transactions and joint ventures in the U.S., China, Europe, India, and Southeast Asia.

In-House Counsel Nominees

Private Company: Midsize

Benjamin C. Johnson

Senior Vice President/ Head of Legal
ZAG Entertainment
Brigham Young University Law School

Ben Johnson is a highly experienced corporate and litigation attorney with a proven ability to deliver outstanding results for demanding clients in intellectual property and business litigation matters and provide sound general business advice across a broad spectrum of issues including risk management, employer liability, privacy, due diligence, and compliance. After a number of years as a firm attorney, he took his talents in house, joining MGA where he worked to protect the company's numerous valuable properties, including Bratz and LOL Surprise.

Two years ago, Johnson left MGA and moved toy companies to join ZAG Entertainment, a growing toy business. At ZAG, he manages all legal matters, domestic or international. He enjoys all aspects of legal work and at ZAG deals with a variety of legal issues ranging from employment to contract to intellectual property. Having overcome adverse circumstances growing up has helped Ben have perspective and understanding today.

Private Company: Large

Derek Michael Dahlin

Associate General Counsel
ClickUp
University of San Diego

After the start of COVID, Derek Dahlin began working for ClickUp – a hypergrowth productivity management company valued at over $4 billion. At the time, ClickUp was a scrappy, self-funded start-up with fewer than 50 employees, but it had already begun challenging and beating its public company rivals. He joined ClickUp full-time as its general counsel a few months later, shortly after the company's Series A fundraising round, at which point ClickUp began to experience tremendous growth. Over the next few years, ClickUp quickly grew from a small start-up to an international enterprise, with subsidiaries in four countries and over 900 global employees.

Dahlin led the company through both its Series B and Series C financings (totaling over $500 million of investment from tier-one VC funds such as Andreeson Horowitz, Tiger Global, and Craft Ventures) and was instrumental in managing its expansion both internationally and domestically.

Private Company: Large

David Eisler

Chief Legal Officer
NEOGOV
Boston University

From 2003 through 2011, David Eisler was a corporate associate focused on mergers and acquisitions, securities, venture capital, and general corporate matters at Dorsey & Whitney (2003-2005) and DLA Piper (2005-2011). Since then, he has served as general counsel at a number of public- and venture-backed companies in the SaaS-based software, e-commerce, healthcare, and fintech sectors. From April 2019 through December 2021, he also served as the first general counsel at Quid, which grew from about $100 million in assets under management to over $1 billion during that time.

Eisler joined NEOGOV in 2021, where he currently serves as chief legal officer. NEOGOV is a SaaS-based software company serving clients in the public sector and is backed by Warburg Pincus and Carlyle. He is also a founding member of TechGC, a peer-to-peer legal network for general counsels, and a board advisor to CounterTen, an NFT platform.

Private Company: Large

Christopher Ghazarian

Corporate Counsel
DreamHost
Southwestern Law School

From the time that he signed on with DreamHost in 2013, Chris Ghazarian has always had an eye toward protecting not just the interests of our business, but also the privacy of our hundreds of thousands of customers around the globe. He has worked to weave his legal team into all operations and products across the organization from the time he signed on to be their corporate counsel. He helps guide all DreamHost's projects from the beginning vs. the usual "let's hit up Legal at the end of the project before going live" style that most companies employ.

Ghazarian has put the privacy of the company's 400,000-plus customers' data at the heart of every policy decision. His approach to using data systems and building a homegrown in-house compliance program to limit customer data exposure to outside parties has likely saved DreamHost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Private Company: Large

Erik Graham-Smith

General Counsel
FloQast
Harvard Law School

As FloQast's general counsel, Erik Graham-Smith is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the company's legal, compliance, HR, and recruiting teams. Prior to joining, he practiced law at Kleinberg, Kaplan, Wolff & Cohen, P.C., where his practice concentrated on investor activism, M&A, and general corporate and securities law. He began his career as an associate at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP where he worked in the corporate department on M&A, corporate governance, and shareholder activism.

In the last 24 months alone, Graham-Smith raised Series C and Series D funding rounds, an aggregate of $150 million. He ran a Tender Offer for all employees and shareholders. He also oversaw HR and recruiting as the company scaled from 160 to 560 employees, including building out an internal operations department that he oversaw for six months until it was up and running.

Private Company: Large

Elliot Rozenberg

Vice President & Assistant General Counsel
FabFitFun
USC Gould School of Law

Elliot Rozenberg has been an in-house attorney specializing in commercial contracts since graduating from USC Law in 2013. For the past six years, he has overseen the commercial legal work at FabFitFun, a lifestyle membership and shopping experience company. During that time, he has led negotiations with many of the world's most renowned beauty companies including Estée Lauder, L'Oreal, and Shiseido. He also supported the rapid and impressive growth of FabFitFun's influencer marketing program, which is one of the most well-known in the country.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rozenberg handled all the force majeure-related issues that arose and provided support to their operations and business teams who faced numerous challenges with respect to supply chain and logistics. He started the first student-run endowment fund at USC Law. The fund generates annual scholarships for LGBTQ+ law students and those pursuing LGBTQ+ equality in the law.

In-House Counsel Nominees

Private Company: Enterprise

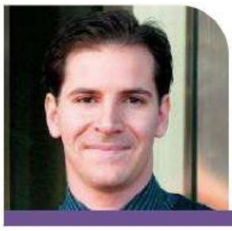
Camilla Eng

General Counsel
LaserAway
UC Law San Francisco

Camilla Eng is the general counsel of LaserAway, the nation's leading medical spa specializing in aesthetics services utilizing cutting-edge technology in 40+ locations. She advises on corporate legal strategy and implementation, and guides the company's legal department in managing a range of issues, from patent and employment law matters to contracts, claims, and real estate, to insurance and risk management matters and compliance.

In the last couple of years, Eng helped her company work on a partnership with private equity group Ares Management. The strategic investment made by Ares will help fuel LaserAway's continued nationwide expansion, drive loyalty through its rewards program LaserLove, and advance its proprietary skin care products line, LA Beauty. Previously, she served as EVP of sales & marketing at JM Eagle, the world's largest plastic pipe manufacturer. She also served as a deputy city attorney for several agencies in Los Angeles.

Private Company: Enterprise



Roy Hadavi

General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Flynt Management Group
Southwestern Law School

After several successful roles in solo, in-house, and law firm scenarios, in 2021, Roy Hadavi transitioned into the entertainment world. As General Counsel of Flynt Management Group, he oversees all legal matters for the Larry Flynt empire, including the Hustler brand, the various LFP magazine and broadcasting operations, Hustler Casino and Lucky Lady Casino, and Hustler Hollywood stores.

Hadavi is spearheading the project to open three additional casinos in California. He has expanded the internal workload of the legal department. He has onboarded new systems to manage legal matters more efficiently and effectively for the company. And, in a very difficult situation, he was on the ground in person within an hour when two armed robbers opened fire on the Hustler Casino. Hadavi guided staff to ensure both their safety and that of patrons, got the situation under control, and got the casino back open.

Private Company: Enterprise

Victoria K. Harvey

Senior Vice President & Chief Legal Officer
Smile Brands Inc.
Whittier Law School

Victoria Harvey joined Smile Brands in 2014 as associate general counsel and was appointed senior vice president and chief legal officer in April 2015. She has over 25 years of experience in corporate and law firm settings, including over a decade with the law firms of Loeb & Loeb LLP in Los Angeles and Theodora Oringher Miller & Richman in Costa Mesa. Prior to Smile, she spent six years with a national restaurant chain and food manufacturing company where she handled all the company's legal functions.

In her capacity at Smile Brands, Harvey oversees all legal affairs, including corporate governance, regulatory compliance, intellectual property, risk management, government affairs, insurance portfolio, M&A, litigation, and strategic legal matters. She works closely with all the company's departments, including HR, operations, real estate, procurement, marketing, IT, and finance with respect to various legal and compliance-related issues.

Private Company: Enterprise

Kendall Jones

General Counsel
California Pizza Kitchen
Vanderbilt Law School

Kendall Jones has been with California Pizza Kitchen for more than three years. During her time as head of the legal and risk departments at CPK, she was an integral part of the team that expanded the brand's retail offerings, as well as the team that launched the company's domestic franchise program. She negotiated and drafted the contracts that sealed those deals and also helped shepherd the company through COVID, a bankruptcy restructuring, and a full debt refinance.

Jones has been an attorney for over 27 years. After graduating with honors from Vanderbilt Law School, she joined the highly regarded international law firm of Alston & Bird in Atlanta. She worked for large law firms and her own firm for over two decades as a civil litigator and business attorney. Jones has never lost a jury trial and has prevailed in over 90% of her bench trials.

Private Company: Enterprise

A. Joel Richlin

General Counsel/Vice President
Prime Healthcare
Loyola Law School

Joel Richlin is the vice president and general counsel for Prime Healthcare, an award-winning health system operating 45 hospitals and more than 300 outpatient locations in 14 states, providing over 2.6 million patient visits annually.

His leadership ensures consistent and sound legal advice to Prime Healthcare's hospitals and medical groups. Throughout the pandemic, Richlin has led the legal department's response and provided tremendous support to the health system and its front-line caregivers. With a team of 30 attorneys across the country, the delivery of legal services had to be reinvented to coordinate amongst a geographically dispersed department with a mix of on-site and remote attorneys. Through Richlin's dedicated leadership, the legal department was able to partner even more closely with its front-line caregiver clients to meet an ever-changing regulatory environment. This enabled Prime Healthcare to maintain access to care through an unprecedented spike in the need for services.

Private Company: Enterprise

Michael Speaker

General Counsel
City National Bank
University of Virginia School of Law

In 2019, Michael Speaker took the reins as general counsel for City National Bank – a company known as the "Bank to the Stars" and one of L.A.'s most important institutions. He has successfully navigated new legal and regulatory waters as the bank has transformed, nearly doubling in size to $95.3 billion in assets from $51 billion when he joined.

Speaker's Legal and Corporate Administrative Group also has expanded since he took over the team. As City National has grown, the bank has become subject to increased legal and regulatory expectations. The scope and demands of Speaker's role are very complex, and he plays an instrumental role in helping City National's parent company, Royal Bank of Canada, navigate its regulatory and legal environment, too. Another business priority he leads is City National's investments in underserved communities through the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).

In-House Counsel Nominees

Private Company: Enterprise

Natalie Swanson

Senior Director, Associate General Counsel
Riot Games
Pepperdine University School of Law

While the legal team at Riot Games is responsible for compliance, regulation, litigation, and other typical external matters, the team's vision is to unlock "Rioters" so they can create big, bold experiences for players. Natalie Swanson has been a champion of this for a long time. Right out of law school in 2010, she joined the company when it was still a start-up and League of Legends, the industry's first free-to-play game, was just a year old. She took the leap and has been with the company ever since.

Today, Swanson manages the global labor and employment practice, which supports 4,500-plus Rioters. From a team of one, the labor and employment team is now five attorneys in the U.S., and several more internationally with Swanson leading. Her fingerprint can be found on nearly every major People program, office expansion, and company milestone that have shaped Riot into what it is today.

Private Company: Enterprise

Raúl E. Zermeno

General Counsel
Traffic Management, Inc.
USC Gould School of Law

Raúl Zermeno serves as the first-ever general counsel for Traffic Management, Inc., handling all legal matters, including employment issues with HR for TMI's 2,000+ workforce. He audits and implements new policies and procedures, performs wage & hour audits, creates strategies for new business opportunities, reviews and finalizes contracts with customers, as well as lease agreements for rental properties, and deals with collections. He also manages relationships with outside counsel and oversees claims brought against the company.

As the majority of TMI's work is done as a subcontractor, Zermeno spends a significant amount of time negotiating terms in master service agreements. He has drafted and improved language in these contracts with a focus on the indemnification provisions, to put TMI in a more equitable position. He is intricately involved in negotiating collective bargaining agreements, auditing pay practices to ensure compliance with CBAs, and defending against union grievances.

Public Company: Small

Michael Jaffa

General Counsel & COO
Genius Brands International
New York University School of Law

For nearly 30 years, Michael Jaffa has had an extensive career in law with over 20 years dedicated to entertainment law, serving in senior executive positions for high-profile entertainment companies based in Los Angeles. Currently, he serves as general counsel & chief operating officer for Genius Brands, where he has negotiated millions of dollars in licensing deals and executed in excess of $400 million of M&A and financial transactions in the past four years.

In April 2018, Jaffa was recruited by the board of directors to join Genius Brands to oversee the negotiating and shaping of business transactions in the areas of development, production, licensing, finance, and distribution of the company's IP catalog, including Shaq's Garage, Stan Lee's Superhero Kindergarten, Wolfgang Puck's Secret Chef Academy, Warren Buffett's Secret Millionaire's Club, Llama Llama, Rainbow Rangers, Thomas Edison's Secret Lab, Baby Genius, and more.

Public Company: Small

David Katz

Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, and Corporate Secretary
RadNet, Inc.
Loyola Law School

As an attorney, David Katz has practiced for 33 years in the areas of securities and mergers and acquisitions. Today, he serves as executive vice president, chief legal officer, and corporate secretary for RadNet, Inc., an American radiology firm. The company operates outpatient diagnostic imaging centers and is the largest provider of outpatient imaging services in the United States. Katz serves as the head of the legal department at RadNet, Inc. and built it from two people in 2021 to eight people in 2022. He is responsible for all M&A, risk management, board of director relations, and strategy, and also co-responsible for the company's European expansion that began in 2022.

While at RadNet, Inc., he has completed 45 acquisitions in under three years, including three international-based acquisitions in 2022 alone. Katz has also been a reserve Los Angeles County deputy sheriff for 33 years doing search and rescue.

Public Company: Small

Rob Rader

General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Ovation LLC
Harvard Law School

Rob Rader is general counsel and corporate secretary at Ovation TV, America's only arts cable network, which is distributed to approximately 50 million U.S. households. At Ovation TV, he has direct responsibility for all business and legal matters and human resources, including production, distribution, marketing, litigation, intellectual property, real estate, and corporate affairs.

Among Rader's accomplishments for Ovation has been his work handling all business affairs, production, and clearance for over 300 annual hours of internal productions from all major studios in the U.S., U.K. and Europe and creating new "over the top" (Internet-based direct-to-consumer) and "FAST" (free advertising-supported television) channels, including obtaining programming rights and negotiating platform agreements with numerous distribution platforms such as Apple, Android, and Roku.

Public Company: Midsize

Hadiss DeWitt Sisson

Senior Director/Senior Attorney
Dun & Bradstreet
Southwestern Law School

Hadiss Sisson's legal guidance incorporates ideology extending to business, customer service, and ethics – always keeping her "do-good" mentality when developing and providing guidance that benefits customers, especially small business customers.

Sisson started her legal career in entertainment law and from there entered the world of data, marketing, product, and technology at Dun & Bradstreet, where she has been thriving for the past 11 years working directly with product, technology, and marketing teams to develop and launch products to help businesses. As the lead small business and e-commerce attorney for Dun & Bradstreet, she is responsible for product parity, messaging, and enablement and works diligently to ensure that all teams are serving the end customer. During the pandemic, Sisson was instrumental in helping launch new emergency solutions to support over 2.4 million small businesses in the United States.

In-House Counsel Nominees

Private Company: Large

Veronique Daniella Vernot

Legal Counsel
Apple Inc.
West Virginia University College of Law

Veronique Vernot is an internationally recognized attorney who serves as legal counsel for Apple Inc. While there, she focused on product integrity, product safety, and AppleCare. Her previous role with the company focused on global supply chain transactions and environmental technologies. For her efforts, she was selected as the 2022 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) Pathfinder.

In her past ventures, she served as a litigator for Mercedes-Benz USA where she handled class actions and product liability matters. She also represented the IRS Office of Chief Counsel in U.S. Tax Court. As a law student, Vernot was awarded the W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship for her scholastic and community service achievements. Additionally, she served her law school as a member of the Moot Court Team, a student ambassador with the Office of Admissions, and a student representative with the Visiting Committee.

Rising Star

Tina Ansaripour

Corporate Counsel
Phonexa
Southwestern Law School

Tina Ansaripour acts as corporate in-house counsel for five different companies and leads each individual company's legal and compliance departments. As corporate in-house counsel, she is involved with strategic development, contract negotiations and administration, corporate transactions, employment law matters, corporate governance, and a range of other legal matters relating to each respective business.

Ansaripour provides counsel to companies on regulatory compliance matters, specifically the state and federal laws surrounding privacy and data security considerations. During her time at Phonexa, she has assisted in the implementation of two new tech solutions that provide a streamlined optimization feature for clients to utilize and also spent her time restructuring internal cybersecurity policies and procedures to keep the company compliant through its fast-growing expansion of services provided.

Rising Star

Sally Brammell

VP of Legal
PAX
Tulane University

Sally Brammell has been a pillar in the cannabis space for years – both as an advocate on behalf of children with special needs and their families and as a leading attorney, shaping emerging industries and establishing sustainable cannabis programs that destigmatize and advance safe, responsible use. She has forged a career rooted in helping others.

Brammell joined PAX, a leading global cannabis brand enhancing lives through exceptional cannabis experiences, in 2017 to advocate for cannabis reform from within the industry. She has made a resounding impact, navigating a challenging space that is state-legal but remains federally illegal. In her role, Brammell leads myriad facets of the business from protecting PAX's innovation and IP to shaping public policy, ensuring compliance against a patchwork of state laws and regulations, establishing a robust youth prevention program, and shaping a go-to-market in constantly evolving states where PAX operates.

Rising Star

Trisha Newman

Chief Legal Officer
Women's Flat Track Derby, Inc. (WFTDI)
Southwestern Law School

Trisha Newman began her legal career as a Los Angeles County Public Defender. During these years she discovered and embraced the sport of roller derby as a way to stay fit. The league she joined experienced significant growth and had some contracts to review for television and film projects. She left the Public Defender's office to pursue a solo practice of appellate and small business practice and became the general counsel for the Los Angeles Derby Dolls and later the international governing body of women's roller derby, the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA), which represents more than 400 member leagues on six continents.

Newman handles legal matters for the WFTDA as it sets international standards for rankings, rules, and competition each year, providing guidance and resources to the sport. She is also of counsel at the firm of Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester, LLP.

[Continued from page 12]

of being found out of compliance. The section maintains both percentage pass rates for first-time takers and the two-year aggregate figure, known as the "ultimate" pass rate.

This is the third consecutive year that the section is releasing this data in response to concerns about the lack of national data on bar passage by members of different racial and ethnic groups.

"Several years ago, we promised to collect and publish such aggregate data and consider whether the requirements of Standard 316 needed to be reviewed in light of what we collected," said Bill Adams, ABA managing director of accreditation and legal education. "We will continue to evaluate the annual data and consider any changes as appropriate."

The council, or governing board of the section, is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the national accreditor of law schools. In that capacity, the council serves as an independent arm of the ABA.

The following charts present the performance of the various racial and ethnic groups based on data submitted in the 2022 and 2023 Bar Passage Questionnaire (the "BPQ"). The left column reports the Ultimate Pass Rate for the graduating classes after two years. The middle column reports the Ultimate Pass Rate for the graduating classes in that year after one year. The right column reports the First Time Pass Rate for that year's graduating classes. The reported information does not depict differences in bar passage rates based on any other background variables.

2023 BPQ Aggregate Data

	2020U	2021U	2022FT
TOTAL Graduates	34,188	35,600	35,732
Total Takers	31,118	33,049	33,721
Total Passers	28,464	28,844	26,217
Total Pass Rate	91%	87%	78%
Diploma Privilege	1,461	580	398
Pass% + DP	92%	88%	78%
Ethnicity Data (includes DP)			
White	94%	90%	83%
Black	81%	72%	57%
Hispanic	88%	81%	69%
Asian	89%	86%	75%
Native American	80%	79%	60%
Hawaiian	76%	51%	69%
Non-Residents	93%	89%	81%
Race Unknown	91%	86%	73%
2 or more	91%	85%	74%

LEGAL VISIONARIES

Southern California continues to maintain its status as a center for thought leaders and power brokers in the legal space. With so many superb law firms in the region, to be named as a standout attorney in what is surely one of the most impressive regional fields in the industry is quite an achievement.

Based on submitted nominees, the Los Angeles Times B2B Publishing team has alphabetically listed 101 of the very best of them here, along with insights and information about their careers, practice, and some relevant recent successes they've achieved.

The criteria used to determine who made this year's selection included average success rate; settlements and verdicts won in the last three years (2019-2022); leadership positions within the firm and community; and board affiliations and recognitions.

Clifton W. Albright

President and Founding Partner
Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC
Loyola Law School
Labor & Employment

Clifton Albright is the president of Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC, and a graduate of Loyola Law School. As a Downtown Los Angeles attorney, he specializes in labor and employment law. Albright was the first attorney to win a lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding its Public Health Service training program. The case was United States of America v. Robert Alfred St. Thomas, MD.

In December 2010 and March 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Albright to the International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC II). He was reappointed to (ITAC 9) in February 2018 by President Donald Trump and is currently being considered for reappointment by President Joe Biden. A sought-after speaker, Albright conducts continuing education programs for attorneys, executives, and employees in such areas as employment and labor law, business management, and complex litigation. In addition, he is licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Blake Alsbrook

Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP
University of Michigan Law School
Bankruptcy

Blake Alsbrook acts as a receiver and counsel for prominent receivers throughout California appointed to general equity, family code, rents and profits, health and safety code, and regulatory receiverships. He also provides legal counsel for and acts as a partition referee, successor trustee, and provisional director in matters involving property and business disputes.

In addition to advising fiduciaries on the impact of California and federal law, Alsbrook has significant civil litigation experience defending and prosecuting actions on behalf of receivers and businesses, and regularly practices and argues before the California Courts of Appeal and the United States Bankruptcy Court. Recently, he acted as a court-appointed receiver for an over $250-million real estate empire in a contentious Orange County divorce action. He also acted as a successor trustee in a trust fraud case where the beneficiary was deprived of tens of millions in profits from a business.

Matthew F. Baker

Partner
Freeman Freeman & Smiley, LLP
Fordham University School of Law
Litigation

Matthew F. Baker is a partner in the Trust and Estate Litigation Department at Freeman Freeman & Smiley. His practice is focused on advocating for the rights of beneficiaries and fiduciaries' conduct in trust and estate matters. Whether it is contesting the validity of a trust or will or representing a fiduciary in a breach of trust claim, he is equipped to handle a wide range of legal issues.

In 2021, Baker was selected as an associate fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, an honorary society composed of less than 0.5% of American lawyers. He has also been included in the Southern California Rising Stars list from 2018-2022 by Super Lawyers Magazine, an honor earned by only 2.5% of attorneys under the age of 40. Baker received the Public Counsel Pro Bono Award for the Foster Youth Project in 2016.

Ryan Baker

Partner
Waymaker LLP
Harvard Law School
Litigation

One of California's elite trial and appellate lawyers, Waymaker LLP Founding Partner Ryan Baker wins trial verdicts and appeals in high-profile and high-stakes cases across the country. Skilled with cases involving intellectual property and innovative or disruptive technology, he built Waymaker (formerly Baker Marquart LLP) into one of the nation's premier trial and litigation boutiques. The firm is known for its success in litigation at the intersection of innovative technology and complex legal issues.

Waymaker, which Baker managed from inception, has a stellar record of achievement at both trials and appeals. The firm he has built over the past 17 years is widely recognized for its excellence in many areas, with a particular focus on complex litigation, intellectual property, and fintech/cybersecurity. Baker successfully guided Waymaker through the turmoil of the pandemic and in 2021, the firm changed its name to reflect its growing diversity and commitment to a collaborative culture.

Oren Bitan

Shareholder
Buchalter
Loyola Law School
Litigation

Oren Bitan has an extensive legal background that includes business, real estate, banking, receivership, consumer product, and commercial litigation. He is known for his ability to solve complex business disputes for his clients. He is a trusted advisor who guides his clients through their day-to-day legal concerns and has particular expertise in matters involving real estate, banking and lending, creditors' rights, wine, beer, liquor, cannabis, and intellectual property.

Bitan's representative clients include banks and financial institutions; private lenders; state and federal receivers; private investors and investment funds; private equity groups; real property developers; breweries; wineries; distilleries; cannabis businesses; consumer products companies; and corporate entities large and small. He is co-chair of Buchalter's Cannabis Industry Law Group and advises cannabis businesses on regulatory advice; banking; lending; financing; intellectual property; receivership; real property development and leasing; and assembling teams of attorneys to provide corporate and employment advice.

Morgan Chu

Partner
Irell & Manella LLP
Harvard Law School
Intellectual Property

Morgan Chu has secured many of the world's largest – and in some cases precedent-setting – verdicts, judgments, and settlements, resulting in actual payments totaling more than $9 billion. His decades-long career stands apart for its impact and influence. Defense representations have comprised an equal share of his career, and he has scored a series of wins that have been named top defense verdicts of the year.

In just the past year, Chu has obtained nearly $3.3 billion in awards for VLSI Technology in patent trials against Intel involving microprocessor technology. In November 2022, he convinced a jury to award VLSI $948 million plus running royalties, and in a separate case in April 2022, secured a $2.3-billion judgment for VLSI – the largest patent judgment in U.S. history. His strategy included ensuring technical issues surrounding the infringement was easily understandable for jurors.

Jeff Cohen

Partner and Co-Founder
Cohen Gardner LLP
UCLA School of Law
Entertainment and Sports

Cohen Gardner LLP, the transactional entertainment law firm that Jeff Cohen co-founded with Jonathan Gardner in 2002 is celebrating its 20th year in the entertainment industry. His clients Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan won many awards for their remarkable work in "Everything Everywhere All at Once." Yeoh has recently wrapped shooting on Kenneth Branagh's "A Haunting in Venice" and is currently shooting "Wicked" for Universal. Quan has recently wrapped his work on the feature "The Electric State" for Netflix starring Millie Bobby Brown and Chris Pratt. Additionally, he will appear in the upcoming season of Marvel Studios' "Loki" for Disney+.

A fun fact is that both Quan and Cohen have been friends for almost 40 years – since they appeared in the film "The Goonies" together back in 1985. Cohen also represents Lil Rel Howery, the actor and comedian from the critically acclaimed and NAACP Award-nominated HBO comedy special, "I Said It, Y'all Thinking It."

Carmen Jeannine Cole

Squire Patton Boggs
Partner
Pepperdine University School of Law
Labor & Employment

Carmen J. Cole is an experienced litigator who provides legal counsel to employers in various industries on compliance with employment laws. She has experience in human resources, which gives her a unique perspective on clients' issues. She handles restrictive covenant litigation, discrimination, harassment, and whistleblower litigation for Fortune 50 clients nationwide. Also, she conducts third-party investigations into employee claims of discrimination and harassment.

In recent years, Cole has achieved several accomplishments, including defeating United's request for a preliminary injunction and obtaining dismissal of the plaintiff's claims for defamation. She has received several professional awards, including "Top Women Attorney" by the Daily Journal, and serves on the board of directors for St. John's Community Health. Cole graduated from Pepperdine University School of Law in 2001.

Lara Compton

Member
Mintz
Pacific McGeorge School of Law
Life Sciences & Healthcare

Mintz member Lara Compton is a trusted advisor to clients ranging from traditional healthcare providers to disrupter digital health platforms as they navigate the practical and regulatory challenges in healthcare. Her unique depth of knowledge across HIPAA privacy and other regulatory issues governing the use of data, state and federal fraud and abuse laws, business planning, and operational issues has led colleagues to describe Compton as the "Swiss Army Knife" of healthcare problem-solving.

As a successful healthcare attorney, Compton has worked on some noteworthy matters in the past 24 months, including serving as the lead healthcare regulatory counsel to Fulgent Genetics, Inc., a technology-based genetic testing company focused on transforming patient care in oncology, infectious and rare diseases, and reproductive health, in its $170-million acquisition of Inform Diagnostics, a leading national independent pathology laboratory based in Texas.

LEGAL VISIONARIES

Theresa Conduah

Partner
Haynes and Boone
Fordham Law
Intellectual Property

Theresa Conduah is a partner in the Intellectual Property Practice Group in the Orange County office of Haynes and Boone, LLP. Her practice focuses on advising clients on trademark disputes, patent litigation, and technology transactions, among other matters.

Conduah has broad-based experience helping companies protect their intellectual property on a global scale, including providing strategic counsel on trademark and copyright portfolios; design patents; brand protection; and anti-counterfeit programs. She has served as an in-house IP counsel at United Airlines, Toyota Motor North America, Inc., and, most recently, at dosist, a health and wellness company. Previously, as a lawyer in private practice, she counseled clients in the technology, financial services, entertainment, and sports industries about IP prosecution and enforcement matters. Conduah is a frequent speaker, volunteer, and advocate for diversity in law issues. Born in Ghana in West Africa, she faced adversity merely by her place of birth.

Anthony Consoli

Co-Founder and Managing Partner
Massumi + Consoli LLP
UCLA School of Law
Corporate

Anthony Consoli is a co-founder and managing partner of Massumi + Consoli LLP, a boutique private equity-focused transactional firm with offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York. The firm counts among its elite client roster some of the most discerning and respected investors in the country as it fulfills its mission of exceeding client services of the most recognized international law firms at an unmatched value proposition.

Consoli and his co-founder, Peter Massumi, have driven MCLLP's growth into one of the largest private equity and M&A practices on the West Coast. Since last year's submission, the firm has continued its rapid expansion and now deploys a full in-house specialist team to provide clients with full-service transactional support – a unique value proposition from a boutique firm. At the foundation of Consoli's individual practice is a commitment to dealmaking through a focus on the highest standards of excellence.

Michelle Cooke

ArentFox Schiff LLP
Partner
University of Virginia School of Law
Intellectual Property

Michelle Cooke is an intellectual property advisor and legal strategist. She is a thought leader in digital rights creation, specializing in the expansion of established and emerging brands in developing mediums such as the metaverse and Web 3.0. She joined ArentFox Schiff (AFS) in 2022 as co-leader of the media and entertainment practice. Her clients are from a wide range of industries, including entertainment, technology, consumer products, and fashion.

Cooke is responsible for negotiating licensing, distribution, development agreements, and policies for the creation and use of IP, social media activity, user-generated content, and personal data. She also leads global IP enforcement and litigation strategies. Among the recent major projects Cooke has led are the KCETLink merger with PBS SoCal and handling all legal needs for LivOn Laboratories, Inc., Offspring Beauty Co., and a major film franchise for a major film studio. She has also handled the first NFT launch for a fashion conglomerate and acted as lead counsel for all IP and tech-related agreements for a new social media platform.

Emahn Counts

Managing Attorney
Counts Law Firm PC
Loyola Law School
Litigation

Emahn Counts is the managing attorney of Counts Law Firm PC, where he practices business, family, and real estate law. He has been licensed for nearly 20 years and is recognized for his practical approach to problem-solving and improving quality of life for his clients. His clients' cases typically involve business, family, or real estate contractual disputes, and he has personally handled over 1,000 litigation matters throughout every major courthouse in Southern California.

Among his recent achievements was a situation where Counts' client purchased a $4-million home in Pasadena and after an argument, the client's neighbor spitefully cut down over $50,000 worth of property line trees. After an eight-month battle, Counts won a $100,000 settlement for his client including penalties. Prior to opening Counts Law Firm, he was the managing attorney of the Los Angeles office of a nationwide consumer litigation firm where he represented blue-chip clients.

Sandra Crawshaw-Sparks

Partner
Proskauer
Fordham University School of Law
Entertainment and Sports

A well-known and respected entertainment industry litigator with 34 years of success, Sandra (Sandy) Crawshaw-Sparks represents the most iconic names in music on recording, publishing, licensing and management contracts, copyrights, trademark rights, unfair competition claims, and the rights of privacy and publicity. While she fiercely fights high-profile battles for her entertainment clients and wins some of the most visible cases in the media today, she also routinely negotiates pre-litigation resolutions of highly sensitive and confidential entertainment-related disputes, protecting her clients and their reputations from unwarranted media scrutiny and creative distraction.

Notably, Crawshaw-Sparks is the deputy national legal counsel for the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Inc. (the not-for-profit organization responsible for the GRAMMY Awards) and has long served on the board of directors of the GRAMMY Museum's Entertainment Law Initiative, which promotes discussion and debate about the most compelling legal issues facing the music industry.

Adam Peter Daniels

Principal
Polsinelli
University of Connecticut School of Law
Intellectual Property

Adam Daniels, a former aerospace engineer, is an attorney in Polsinelli's Intellectual Property practice group. His practice spans all aspects of intellectual property, with a focus on patent and trademark litigation, patent prosecution, post-grant challenges before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), licensing, and investment funding. He represents clients of all sizes, from small start-ups to established big tech and financial institutions. Also, he is valued by clients and colleagues alike for his creative perspective, attention to detail, and his unique blend of technical and legal experience.

Daniels' most notable recent achievements relate to his ongoing representation of a start-up client, Power2B, Inc., a Los Angeles-based company that developed and patented innovative interface technologies for smartphones and related consumer electronic devices. He leads the Polsinelli litigation team asserting Power2B's patents in two ongoing district court litigations in Texas.

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2023 Visionaries

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Rodney Diggs

Director
Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs
Howard University School of Law
Labor & Employment

Rodney Diggs became a partner at Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt in 2016, and in 2019, became a named partner when the firm changed its name to Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs. He has obtained over $200 million in verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients in his 11 years of being an attorney. In addition to his corporate practice, he has had notable successes with assisting individuals in need of representation.

Diggs' significant achievements include recently obtaining a $25-million verdict as lead counsel in an employment retaliation lawsuit, possibly the largest retaliation verdict against a school district. He obtained a $9.1-million verdict in a wrongful death case against the City of Long Beach. This was the largest verdict in history against the city and the second-largest verdict in a wrongful death case within the Central District of California.

Jeffrey Erdman

Shareholder
Scali Rasmussen
Southwestern Law School
Litigation

Jeffrey Erdman is a senior litigation and trial attorney with nearly 25 years of litigation experience practicing in both the state and federal courts of California. He has extensive courtroom and trial experience, both as plaintiff's and defense counsel, successfully arguing cases before the California Courts of Appeal. His litigation experience spans many areas of business, including the insurance, manufacturing, and service industries, as well as all variety of real estate disputes.

Before joining Scali Rasmussen, Erdman was managing partner of Bennett & Erdman for 16 years, where he served both as litigation counsel and as outside general counsel to various business entities and entrepreneurs. He has also provided pro bono legal services in a variety of matters impacting disenfranchised individuals, for which he was recognized with the State Bar President's Pro Bono Services Award in 2008.

Robert K. Dixon

Partner
Sanders Roberts LLP
USC Gould School of Law
Litigation

Robert K. Dixon, a partner at Sanders Roberts LLP, is an experienced trial attorney who specializes in defending high-profile corporate clients in product liability, personal injury, and consumer litigation in state and federal courts throughout California. He represents clients from a variety of industries, including automotive, pharmaceutical, construction, and retail.

The cases Dixon litigates run the spectrum from single-plaintiff/defendant cases to multiple-party complex matters. He is experienced in managing matters from inception through trial as well as navigating matters through the arbitration process. He is a former in-house counsel where he was tasked with, among other things, managing hundreds of toxic tort cases concurrently. His corporate counsel experience provides him with unique insights that are critical for ensuring that litigation and corporate objectives are always aligned. Throughout the years, he has achieved successful results for his clients both in the courtroom and through the negotiation of favorable resolutions.

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Oren Bitan

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proudly congratulates
our co-founder

JEFF B. COHEN, ESQ.

on being named a
2023 Legal Visionary
by
L.A. Times B2B Publishing

Terrence Mark Franklin

Partner
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP
Harvard Law School
Litigation

Terrence Franklin had been practicing trusts and estates litigation for nearly 25 years before he discovered that his legal career was the path to his mission in life, to "Help Bend the Arc of History Towards Justice" by sharing the story of his family's experience escaping from slavery, nearly two decades before the end of the Civil War. In dozens of presentations throughout the U.S., media interviews, and articles, he has retraced his journey to uncover his fourth great-grandfather's will and the unexpected will contest that threatened to keep his fourth great-grandmother Lucy and her children and grandchildren enslaved. His goal is to widely educate others and push back against dehumanization and racism.

Within his practice, Franklin has over three decades of experience handling some of the most significant and complex trusts and estates disputes, regarded as one of the top litigators in the U.S. by clients and colleagues.

Alan Friel

Squire Patton Boggs
Chair, Data Privacy, Cybersecurity & Digital Assets Practice
Northeastern University School of Law
Cybersecurity

Alan Friel is the chair of Squire Patton Boggs' Data Privacy, Cybersecurity, and Digital Assets Practice, which is ranked among the top 20 data firms worldwide. He has expanded the firm's capabilities and grown its profile for data and technology services, adding new hires in the U.S., EMEA, and Asia-Pacific regions. He has over three decades of experience and is a thought leader in digital media, intellectual property, data privacy and protection, and consumer protection law. Friel advises clients on practical and informed business decisions and helps them navigate the opportunities created by disruptive technology.

His professional accomplishments include successfully defending businesses before the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general, representing the interests of multiple clients in the digital advertising sector while working with the Internet Advertising Bureau and negotiating television and film development, production, and distribution agreements. Friel is also recognized for his philanthropic and educational initiatives.

Michael Freedman

Founder and Principal
The Freedman Firm PC
UC Law San Francisco
Litigation

Michael Freedman founded The Freedman Firm in 2021 and has quickly established himself as one of the region's top criminal defense and trial attorneys. Drawing on his background as a former federal prosecutor, his criminal practice runs the gamut of cases in both state and federal court. He routinely represents clients in white-collar fraud investigations and prosecutions and is set for trial in a federal honest services prosecution this June. In addition to white-collar fraud matters, he routinely represents clients facing other criminal charges, including assault, firearms, drugs, and sex crimes.

Freedman is also a go-to asset forfeiture attorney and has won the return of millions of dollars of client funds seized by the government. He also has a robust civil litigation practice, defending individuals and businesses against government regulators and in business disputes as well as representing plaintiffs in select matters.

ERVIN COHEN & JESSUP LLP

Congratulations to our Partners **Chris Manderson** and **Blake Alsbrook** for being recognized in the L.A. Times B2B Publishing, Business of Law Magazine as **2023 Legal Visionaries**.

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9401 Wilshire Boulevard, 12th Floor
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310.273.6333

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Daniel M. Goldberg

Partner and Chair of the Privacy & Data Security Group
Frankfurt Kurnit
USC Gould School of Law
Cyber Security

Daniel M. Goldberg is chair of Frankfurt Kurnit's Privacy & Data Security Group. Widely considered one of the top privacy and data security lawyers in the U.S., he has been consistently recognized by top legal rating organizations. He has been a leading voice on the interpretation and implementation of the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and worked with more than 100 companies, ranging from multi-national corporations to start-ups, on various aspects of their CCPA compliance.

Goldberg's projects involve, among other things, addressing consumer requests, implementing "Do Not Sell" obligations, data mapping, updating contracts and policies, employee training, and responding to attorney general inquiries. He is also considered a leading expert on California's new privacy law, the California Privacy Rights Act (CPRA), and now actively helping clients address CPRA compliance obligations and prepare for new comprehensive state privacy laws from Virginia, Colorado, Utah, and Connecticut.

Michael Gomez

Partner
Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato
Loyola Law School
Bankruptcy

Michael Gomez is an AV Rated lawyer who focuses his practice in the areas of bankruptcy, debtor and creditor rights, commercial litigation, and business litigation; debt workout negotiations, restructuring and documentation of commercial lending transactions, and personal property and real estate-secured credits. He has represented various entities, including debtors, creditors' committees, hedge funds, indenture trustees, equipment lessors, receivers, landlords, bankruptcy trustees, judgment creditors, private lenders, and institutional lenders in out-of-court workouts, federal and state court litigation, and chapters 7, 11, 12, and 13 bankruptcy cases.

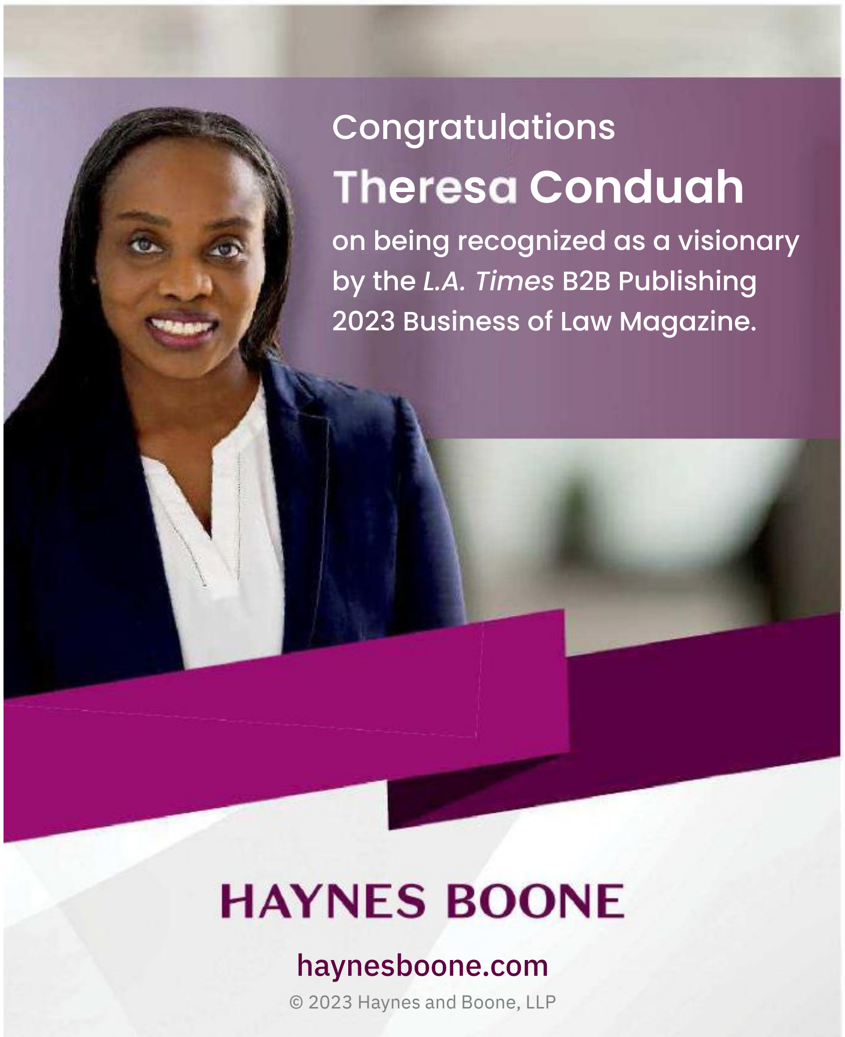
Gomez routinely moderates and speaks at educational presentations before clients and trade groups concerning bankruptcy, enforcing judgments, financing distressed borrowers, and agricultural lending issues. Among his achievements, he has successfully resolved multiple disputes under Articles 3 and 4 of the Commercial Code. He is also the recipient of the Judge Barry Russell Award presented by the Federal Bar Association, Los Angeles Chapter.

Jeremy S. Goldman

Co-Chair and Partner
Frankfurt Kurnit
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Intellectual Property

Jeremy S. Goldman is co-chair of the Blockchain Technology Group and partner in the Litigation Group at Frankfurt Kurnit, where he focuses on intellectual property, blockchain, technology, entertainment, media, commercial, and privacy law.

Over his 17-year career as outside counsel, Goldman has developed a unique and substantial practice at the intersection of intellectual property and technology. He began his legal career in New York, starting at "Big Law" firm Fried Frank in 2005, then transitioned to media and entertainment powerhouse Frankfurt Kurnit in 2008, where he has proudly worked for 15 years. In 2015, Goldman co-founded the firm's Century City office, which he helped grow from two to 20+ lawyers. Leveraging his understanding of tech, passion for copyright law, and experience in IP law, he has become a published legal expert in the world of NFTs and blockchain technology, speaking extensively and helping clients navigate the field.



Congratulations
Theresa Conduah
on being recognized as a visionary by the *L.A. Times* B2B Publishing 2023 Business of Law Magazine.

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K&S King & Spalding

Congratulations

King & Spalding salutes **Amanda Hayes-Kibreab** and **Kelly Perigoe** for being recognized as 2023 Legal Visionaries.

Amanda Hayes-Kibreab

Kelly Perigoe

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LEGAL VISIONARIES

Valerie Goo

Crowell & Moring LLP
Office Managing Partner
UCLA School of Law
Intellectual Property

Valerie Goo, the managing partner of Crowell & Moring's Los Angeles office, has been representing leading companies in complex litigation for over two decades. She has tried numerous cases across the country and has a successful record in representing clients in commercial litigation and intellectual property matters. Currently, she represents large companies in intellectual property, commercial disputes, and trade secrets cases between competitors.

One of her recent successes was as trial counsel in the high-profile trademark infringement case for Molson Coors defending MillerCoors, a subsidiary of Molson Coors Brewing Co. and maker of Keystone Light Beer. The jury awarded only $56 million to Stone Brewing, which had sought nearly $1 billion in total damages. She also won a commercial and trade secrets litigation matter for a leading aeronautics company, obtaining a trio of summary judgment rulings for the company and two co-defendants on all causes of action. Goo was selected as a "Leader of Influence: Litigators and Trial Lawyers" in 2020 and 2022 and recognized as one of the "Most Influential Intellectual Property Attorneys" by the Los Angeles Business Journal in 2017.

Mira Hashmall

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP
USC Gould School of Law
Labor & Employment

Mira Hashmall is an accomplished trial lawyer with a record of success in federal and state courts and in arbitration. She began her practice at a large, international law firm representing clients in complex litigation matters and defending employers in labor and employment disputes. Since joining Miller Barondess, she has continued to diversify her practice and has achieved Top Verdict recognition on both the plaintiff and defense sides. She represents clients at every stage of litigation, from pre-litigation counseling to appellate proceedings, and is sought out to handle complex litigation involving business matters that have a broad legal impact.

In addition to her complex business practice, Hashmall defends private and public employers in high-stakes litigation involving claims of harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wage and hour, and wrongful termination. She also defends cases involving disability discrimination and accommodation, and family and medical leave rights.

Julia Haye

Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP
UCLA School of Law
Litigation

Directly out of law school, Julia Haye began her legal career at Greenberg Glusker, where she has built a practice that encompasses every genre of entertainment and media, including studio and independent motion pictures, television, music, dance, and online and digital media. She has represented Marvel Entertainment in various matters involving intellectual property disputes and profit participation rights, the holder of the rights to The Beatles, the owner of the Friday the 13th movie franchise, and has resolved a complex business partnership dispute involving the remake of "Last House on the Left."

Haye has assisted Greenberg Glusker in building an industry-wide reputation for groundbreaking profit participation litigation. Through her extensive work in major profit participation cases on behalf of talent, artists, and rights holders, including Marvel and the rights holders to Winnie the Pooh, she has become fluent in the unique language of Hollywood accounting.

Baker McKenzie.

Baker McKenzie congratulates **Perrie Weiner** on his inclusion into the LA Times B2B 2023 Business of Law: **Updates, Trends & Visionaries Magazine!**

Over the past two years, our Los Angeles office has grown from 4 to over 40 lawyers.

bakermckenzie.com

Partner-in-Charge of Baker McKenzie's Los Angeles office and Chair of the Firm's North America Securities Litigation Group

LEGAL VISIONARIES

Amanda Hayes-Kibreab

Partner
King & Spalding LLP
UCLA School of Law
Life Sciences & Healthcare

Amanda Hayes-Kibreab focuses on complex business litigation, arbitration, and dispute resolution on behalf of healthcare providers, with an emphasis on managed care litigation. As a healthcare litigator, she has extensive experience managing large multi-party, multi-million-dollar disputes, litigating business contract and tort disputes, prosecuting and defending actions against large healthcare payors on behalf of hospital providers, and providing advice on a variety of current healthcare law topics.

Hayes-Kibreab is a must-have counsel to health systems, provider groups, surgery centers, and other healthcare providers and advises these clients on the full scope of disputes as well as federal and state healthcare laws. She regularly appears in federal and state trial and appellate courts as well as multiple arbitration forums on behalf of healthcare clients in various types of commercial litigation actions including contract disputes, commercial torts, unfair business practices, fraud allegations, and intellectual property disputes.

Brian Horne

Partner
Knobbe Martens
University of Michigan
Intellectual Property

Brian Horne is the managing partner of the Los Angeles office of IP law firm Knobbe Martens and an industry-recognized leading trial lawyer who litigates headline-grabbing cases in Southern California and throughout the country. He has won trials involving a wide range of disputes, including patent, trade secret, trademark, trade dress, and breach of contract.

Horne's trial teams have won more than $1 billion cumulatively, and his teams have been featured in The National Law Journal's list of Top 100 verdicts on multiple occasions. He manages teams of attorneys of all levels to reach favorable results for his clients. At the firm, Horne holds several positions of management and leadership. In 2022, he became the managing partner of the Los Angeles office after more than two decades at the firm. He sits on the firm's litigation and executive committees, where he mentors the firm's up-and-coming litigators.

Robert Hudock

Founding Attorney
Hudock Employment Law Group
University of San Diego School of Law
Labor & Employment

Robert Hudock founded Hudock Employment Law Group in 2015 to deliver tailored legal services to California companies that thrive in vibrant, creative work environments. His clients are often companies looking at new markets and competitive opportunities that want to recruit the best talent available while avoiding distracting workplace issues or lawsuits.

Hudock is an experienced litigator with over 21 years of practice and has devoted his career to employment law for businesses for the last 16 years. He spent several years in "Big Law" and has experience managing large litigation teams. He was drawn to the "human side" of employment law, helping clients overcome challenges presented by difficult issues and sparing them the angst of conflict and worry. Known for his careful case analysis and preparation, thoughtful counsel, and leadership skills, Hudock is a disciplined advocate and tenacious litigator for his clients.

Bradford G. Hughes

Member and Co-Member-in-Charge of San Diego Office
Clark Hill PLC
University of San Diego School of Law
Litigation

A capital member of Clark Hill at merely 38 years old, Brad Hughes is an exemplary leader within Clark, the industries he serves, and the community. Voted "Mentor of the Year" by firm associates for his tireless work in training young litigators to become trial attorneys and client advocates, he has also been lauded for his sophisticated and pragmatic approach to the COVID-19 pandemic, guiding hospitality, retail, and commercial businesses to safe, prosperous futures.

Underlying Hughes' success is his awareness that clients think like businesspeople, not like lawyers, and his application of unique skills, knowledge, and problem-solving to craft creative and business-focused resolutions for them. He works with clients to identify, manage, mitigate, and educate them on the ever-increasing risks which threaten their business. He surrounds himself with a diverse team of brilliant attorneys who cohesively learn from each other while representing clients in negotiations, settlement discussions, or jury trials.

Andrei Iancu

Partner
Irell & Manella LLP
UCLA School of Law
Intellectual Property

Before returning as a partner to Irell & Manella LLP in April 2021, Andrei Iancu served as the undersecretary of commerce for intellectual property and director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a position to which he was unanimously confirmed by the Senate. In this role, he oversaw one of the largest IP offices in the world, an agency with approximately 13,000 employees and an annual budget of more than $3.5 billion.

At Irell, Iancu focuses on IP litigation and counseling. Prior to his government service, he served as the firm's managing partner from 2012 to 2018, the maximum allowable tenure. He has represented clients in a variety of high-profile matters in district courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. International Trade Commission, and the USPTO. In addition to litigation, Iancu has been involved in all other aspects of IP practice.

Robbin Itkin

Partner
Sklar Kirsh LLP
USC Gould School of Law
Bankruptcy

Robbin Itkin is a partner and leader of Sklar Kirsh's Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring practice group. Her experience restructuring billions of dollars of debt includes insolvency resolutions in chapter 11 cases and numerous restructurings outside the courtroom. As a mediator, she uses her problem-solving strength to advise both healthy companies and those in distress, leading them to negotiate effectively with their own creditors and counterparties who are in fragile economic straits.

Experienced at representing a range of parties in the bankruptcy process, Itkin has protected the claims and interests of debtors, creditors, equity and bondholders' committees, purchasers, trustees, and Ponzi scheme victims in corporate restructurings and bankruptcies. Her industry experience spans real estate, entertainment, sports, retail, transportation, manufacturing, and hospitality. Many of her clients are high-profile individuals in entertainment, sports, and business. She discreetly guides them through out-of-court workouts and financial transactions.

Julia Jayne

Founder
Jayne Law Group
UC Law San Francisco
Litigation

Julia Jayne is an experienced and accomplished trial lawyer who concentrates her practice on both white-collar and general criminal defense in felony and misdemeanor cases. She has over 20 years of experience in complex criminal matters in federal and state courts as well as over 40 jury trials under her belt.

Jayne represents a broad array of individuals and companies in state and federal court, at the investigative, pre-trial, and trial stages. Her successes range from outright case dismissals to extremely favorable plea agreements to acquittals. Her white-collar criminal defense matters include prosecutions involving mail and wire fraud violations, bribery and kickbacks, securities fraud (insider trading), bank fraud, environmental crimes, money laundering, alien harboring, money smuggling, anti-trust, immigration crimes, false statements, identity theft, criminal contempt, tax evasion, extradition matters, and prosecutions with significant asset forfeiture implications.

Richard Kaplan

Founding Partner
Kaplan Marino
Pepperdine University School of Law
Litigation

Criminal defense attorney Richard Kaplan manages serious criminal charges that threaten the livelihood and reputations of white-collar clients, including high-net-worth individuals, entrepreneurs, entertainers, corporations, and their officers and executives. His creative strategies during negotiations with authorities have led to numerous acquittals, no-charges-filed, probation, and record expungement outcomes for clients.

Kaplan's experience includes a range of allegations: fraud, narcotics, DUI, vehicular manslaughter, and domestic violence, among others. Several recent representations have involved #MeToo allegations, road rage, building code violations, and overcharging claims issued by weights and measure agencies. He has built productive relationships across the legal profession, from the Los Angeles County and City Prosecuting Agencies to the U.S. Department of Justice to the National Conference of Bar Presidents. During more than 30 years of practice, Kaplan has assembled a formidable team of professionals and deep resources that support his alternative approaches and customized defense advocacy.

Roland Juarez

Partner
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Columbia School of Law
Labor & Employment

Roland Juarez is a thought leader among the labor and employment team at Hunton Andrews Kurth. He regularly advises and mentors young associates with practical career advice and often authors with associates to help guide their legal writing and analysis while supporting their distinct voices. In the past year, he published a number of items and guided associates through the publishing process as a legal author and insider. Juarez is able to connect with labor and employment associates on a number of trending issues, offer his experienced advice, and help build the confidence and writing skills of this associate team.

Juarez is known for handling high-stakes labor and employment cases for some of California's largest and most high-profile employers in the temporary staffing, service, manufacturing, and retail industries, skillfully defending clients against challenging wage and hour, discrimination, non-compete, and anti-raiding claims facing employers in California and nationwide.

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Stephen Kaufman

Principal
Kaufman Legal Group
UC Law San Francisco
Litigation

Stephen Kaufman founded Kaufman Legal Group in 1996. A recognized authority in the field of campaign finance and election law, he represents elected officials, candidates, PACs, labor unions, corporations, nonprofit organizations, ballot measure campaigns, political parties, major donors, lobbying firms, and government agencies on a wide variety of campaign finance, election, and governmental ethics matters.

Kaufman is an expert on voting systems and election procedures. He was a recount attorney for the Gore-Lieberman campaign in Florida following the 2000 Presidential Election, and in 2001, he was appointed chief counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Caucus Special Committee on Election Reform. He currently serves as chair of the State Voting Modernization Board and previously served on the City of Los Angeles Municipal Elections Reform Commission. Kaufman is a former president of the California Political Attorneys Association and served on many other nonprofit boards.

Sarah Kelly-Kilgore

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office
Greenberg Gross LLP
Georgetown University Law Center
Litigation

The leader of Greenberg Gross LLP's Los Angeles office, Sarah Kelly-Kilgore has built a reputation as a skilled, innovative trial and appellate lawyer with the ability to persuade judges and juries in cases with the highest stakes. She has a diverse litigation practice that spans business litigation, employment disputes, securities, and white-collar defense. Clients have come to know Kilgore for her ingenuity, skill, and leadership, with one of the firm's most high-profile clients praising her as a "platinum attorney who performs well beyond [her] experience."

Kilgore is co-lead counsel in landmark lawsuits filed for the Trustee of the PG&E Fire Victim Trust to pursue assigned claims against former PG&E vegetation management contractors and major management consulting firms for their responsibility in contributing to the causes of deadly wildfires of 2017-2019 in Northern California. The Trust will distribute funds to the 70,000 victims who lost their homes and businesses.

Christianne Kerns

Managing Partner
Hahn & Hahn LLP
USC Gould School of Law
Corporate

Christianne Kerns is the first female managing partner of Hahn & Hahn LLP, a well-respected law firm in Pasadena that has been serving the Southern California area since 1899. Under her leadership, the firm has transitioned from being one of Southern California's elite, white shoe boutique firms to most recently earning the prestigious Women's Business Enterprise National Council's certification as a majority Women-Owned Business with more than 85% of the firm's personnel identifying as women and/or members of traditionally marginalized groups.

As managing partner, Kerns is responsible for strategy and leading the firm; developing, implementing, and driving organizational goals, procedures, and policies; managing all aspects of the firm's operations as well as firm lawyers and the firm's executive director; collaborating with other partners; and business development and maintaining positive client relationships. In addition, she still maintains her practice as a member of the firm's business law department.

Daniel Lee Kim

Managing Partner
Daniel Kim Law Group
UC Berkeley School of Law
Corporate

Daniel Kim is managing partner of Daniel Kim Law Group, which services NASDAQ-listed companies, a top-ranked children's hospital, and mid-size Los Angeles-based companies. He specializes in contract drafting and review, using modern legal design and technology to accelerate contracting. An advocate for lawyers eschewing complicated and unhelpful negotiating habits, he instead takes a reasonable and user-friendly approach to contracts. He also believes strongly in companies investing in legal operations roles.

Over the past two years, Kim has worked closely with his client, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, to streamline its contracting processes. Throughout the course of reviewing hundreds of vendor contracts, he has identified major bottlenecks and pain points in the intake and approval process for technology contracts. As a result, the review of contracts by legal, as well as related privacy and information security departments, has become both more robust and more efficient.

Taisuke Kimoto

Partner and Co-Lead of the Japan Practice
Covington & Burling LLP
UCLA School of Law
Corporate

Taisuke Kimoto co-leads Covington's Japan Practice, which advises a number of Japan's largest corporations as well as individuals, trade associations, and governmental agencies on their most sensitive and complex legal challenges in the United States, Europe, China, and elsewhere. Drawing upon his long-standing relationships and robust business and legal networks in Japan, he serves as an ambassador of the firm to the Japanese business community and global companies with interests in the Japanese market.

Kimoto is a corporate lawyer whose practice focuses on M&A transactions, general corporate matters, and real estate transactions for companies based in Japan. He also serves as an outside U.S. general counsel for a number of Japanese companies and in that capacity provides advice in many areas, including dispute resolution and employment. In 2021, Chambers Global recognized him among the leading lawyers for Corporate/M&A: Deals in Asia.

Michael Klein

Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP
Pacific McGeorge School of Law
Life Sciences & Healthcare

Michael Klein is a partner at the firm and chairs the firm's marketing committee. From 2000 to 2002, he served as outside general counsel to National Staff Specialists, Inc. Klein's practice focuses on the representation of clients involved in business, consumer, and class action litigation in a broad range of industries with an emphasis on serving clients in the healthcare, managed care, insurance, transportation, and real estate sectors. He has successfully litigated a multitude of high-stakes matters.

In addition to his litigation practice, Klein provides regulatory and governance advice to clients in the healthcare and insurance industries. He also regularly assists healthcare clients in compliance matters and governmental investigations involving EMTALA, consent issues, Medicare/Medicaid billing, fraud and abuse, and transactions impacting the Stark and Anti-Kickback laws, as well as the False Claims Act.

Dana A. Kravetz

Firm Managing Partner
Michelman & Robinson, LLP
Southwestern University School of Law
Labor & Employment

Dana Kravetz is one of the most sought-after employment lawyers in Los Angeles. He is also the firm managing partner of L.A.-based Michelman & Robinson, LLP, where he represents some of the most admired companies in Los Angeles. He brings a unique vantage point to his work on their behalf – that of a manager and business owner – and assigns practical applications to the employment issues confronting clients.

It is Kravetz's breadth of practice area knowledge and his solutions-based approach to employment law that makes him so effective. He is also a hospitality industry authority, which explains why so many companies in that sector look to him for counsel. At the helm of M&R, Kravetz has positioned the firm as a go-to service destination for clients in the advertising & digital media, banking & financial services, energy, insurance, music & entertainment, retail & apparel, sports, technology, and hospitality spaces.

Aaron M. Lewis

Partner and Vice Chair of White Collar Defense and Investigations
Covington & Burling LLP
University of Michigan School of Law
Litigation

General counsel and boards of directors call on Aaron Lewis to conduct their most sensitive internal investigations and defend their businesses and senior executives in their most serious enforcement matters. A founding member of Covington's Los Angeles office and vice chair of the firm's White Collar Defense and Investigations practice, he returned to Covington in 2015 after six years of service in the Department of Justice, first as counsel to Attorney General Eric Holder and later as an assistant United States attorney in Los Angeles.

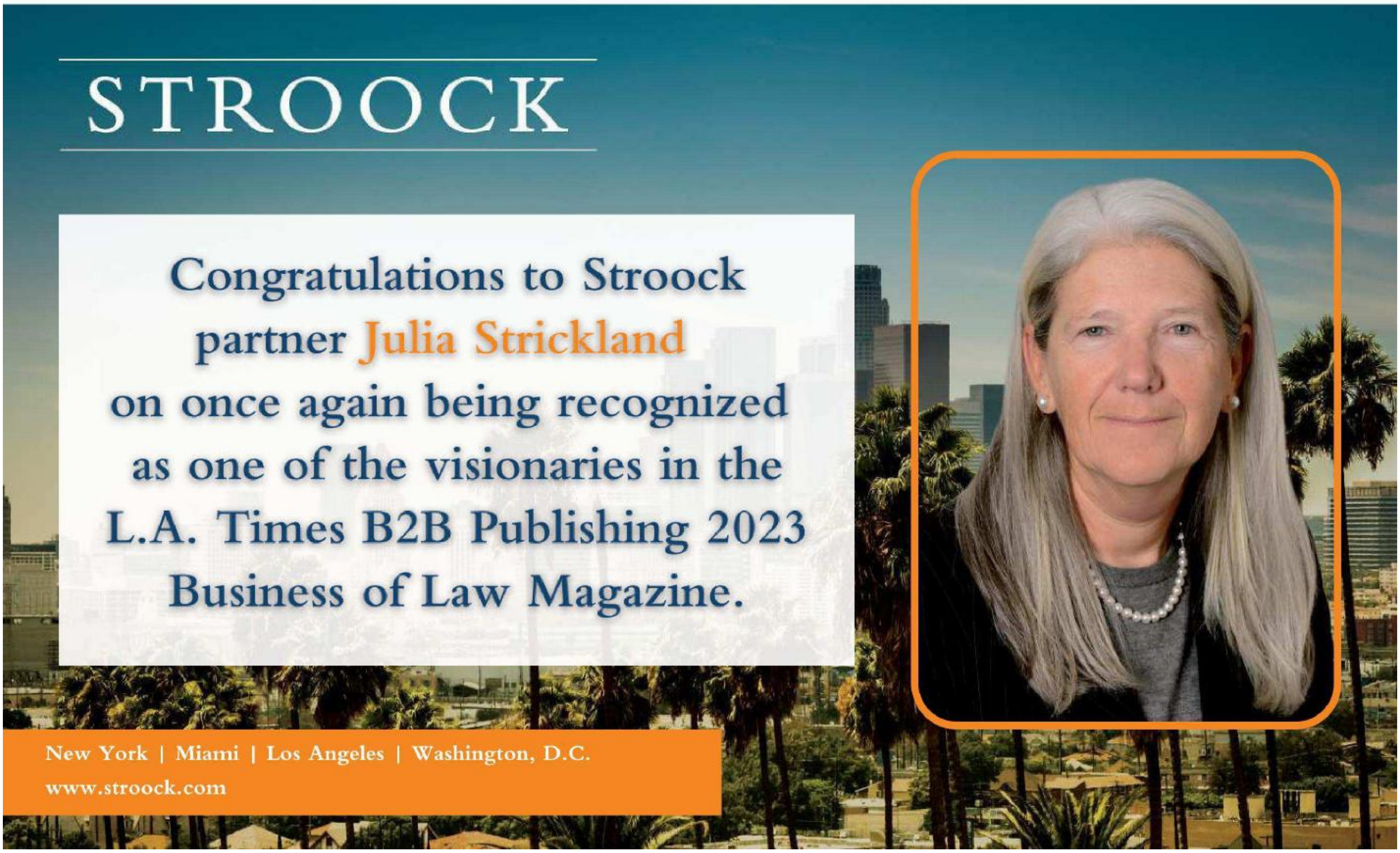
Few recent developments have had a greater impact on public companies and their boards of directors than the increasing number of shareholder proposals calling for civil rights or racial equity audits. Lewis has been a leader and innovator in this rapidly evolving frontier at the intersection of ESG and traditional internal investigations since it first emerged in 2016.

Geoff Lee

Senior Associate
Ramo Law PC
Pepperdine University School of Law
Entertainment and Sports

Drawing on his background as a creative producer, Geoff Lee focuses his legal practice on facilitating his clients' vision, providing them with the legal tools to actualize their ideas for mediums of all types. He is general counsel for unscripted and premium docuseries production companies and negotiates lucrative network deals for his clients' large-scale productions.

As production counsel, Lee specializes in high-profile, talent-driven productions such as "Legendary" on HBO Max with Keke Palmer and Jameela Jamil, "The Big Brunch" on HBO Max hosted by Dan Levy, "Rennervations" with Jeremy Renner on Disney+, and "Welcome to Wrexham" via FX following Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenny's purchase of a Welsh football team. He also focuses on securing strategic branding opportunities between the consumer products and film/television industries, representing high-profile clients as well as structuring financing of entertainment projects through sales of NFTs.



STROOCK

Congratulations to Stroock partner Julia Strickland on once again being recognized as one of the visionaries in the L.A. Times B2B Publishing 2023 Business of Law Magazine.

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www.stroock.com

Margaret Glahn Lodise

Partner
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP
UCLA School of Law
Litigation

In her 30-plus year career, Meg Lodise has established an impressive reputation for successfully handling some of the most complex and high-dollar trusts and estates disputes.

Among her high-profile representations and underscoring her respect in the trusts and estates community, Lodise was appointed by the Probate Court as Guardian Ad Litem for the minor children of entertainer Michael Jackson, a responsibility she carried out soon after his death in 2009 and concluded in February 2020 with his youngest child, Prince Michael Jackson II, turning 18. In November 2021, she was requested by Mark Klaver, counsel for the Government of Canada's Trade Law Bureau, to act as an expert and testify. She produced a comprehensive written report and testified in a five-day arbitration on California trust law in connection with a NAFTA Chapter 11 dispute, where the parties' standing to make a multi-million-dollar claim centered on whether an oral trust was validly formed under California law.

Samuel R. Maizel

Director
Dentons U.S. LLP
The George Washington University Law School
Bankruptcy

Samuel Maizel leads Dentons Distressed Healthcare efforts nationwide as a partner in Dentons' Los Angeles office. He is a nationally recognized expert in the unique issues that arise in the restructuring of healthcare industry entities. Maizel co-led the representation of Verity Health System of California, Inc., and 16 related entities in their chapter 11 cases – the second largest nonprofit hospital bankruptcy case in American history with more than $1.4 billion of debt. The Court approved the sale of Verity's hospitals and senior living facility and confirmed the joint plan of liquidation, which resolved complex litigation and created a liquidating trust for the benefit of creditors.

Previously, Maizel was a partner in a national bankruptcy firm headquartered in Los Angeles and previously a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Commercial Litigation Branch, in addition to representing the federal government in U.S. bankruptcy, district, and appellate courts.

Michael Mallow

Managing Partner
Shook Hardy & Bacon
The George Washington University Law School
Litigation

When large companies, particularly in the automotive industry, are facing complex, multi-faceted challenges, Michael Mallow is often the first attorney they call. He has practiced law for more than three decades and is on the short list of lawyers with the ability to get a class action lawsuit resolved before it becomes a multi-million dollar or reputational problem. Clients describe him as deeply knowledgeable and extremely creative in resolving their issues.

Currently, Mallow serves as managing partner of Shook, Hardy & Bacon's Los Angeles office and as co-chair of the firm's Class Action and Appellate Litigation practice group. In 2019, Shook recruited him to launch the firm's Los Angeles office and help expand Shook's California presence where class action cases are most often filed. Prior to joining Shook, Mallow headed the Consumer Class Action Defense Practice at Sidley Austin, an international firm.

Todd Matthew Malynn

Partner, Intellectual Property Litigation
Blank Rome LLP
Loyola Law School
Intellectual Property

As an experienced and well-respected trial attorney in both the Los Angeles area and nationally, Todd M. Malynn aggressively seeks to identify solutions – whether through settlement or trial – and combines his IP and business transactional experience to help identify, protect, defend, and monetize his client's rights and interests. He represents clients in a wide range of intellectual property matters, from patent, copyright, and trademark infringement to false advertising, unfair competition, misappropriation of trade secrets, and covenants not to compete. Another element of his active litigation practice includes arguing matters under the Federal Trade Commission Act and the Medical Device Regulation Act.

Outside of the courts, Malynn manages his clients' patent and trademark portfolios. He also represents clients before the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) in approval proceedings. His work spans numerous industries, including cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, manufacturing, and entertainment.

Chris Manderson

Partner
Ervin Cohen & Jessup LLP
UCLA School of Law
Corporate

Chris Manderson is a partner and co-chair of the Business, Corporate, and Tax Department at Ervin Cohen & Jessup. He specializes in mergers & acquisitions, venture capital, debt and equity financing, distressed and restructuring transactions, and preserving and utilizing Net Operating Loss (NOL) tax assets. He also advises public and private company boards and executives on all aspects of corporate governance.

In addition to mainstream M&A, venture capital, and corporate finance transactions, Manderson specializes in distressed and restructuring transactions. In the wake of the 2009 Financial Crisis, he reorganized companies preserving over $2 billion in NOL tax assets in Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases, including Real Industry, Inc. (formerly Fremont General Corporation, a subprime mortgage lender with NOLs over $900 million) and Triad Guaranty, Inc. (formerly an insurance holding company with NOLs over $1.1 billion). He has represented both public and private companies, private equity funds, and individuals.

Jeffrey Margulies

Partner-in-Charge, Los Angeles and San Francisco
Norton Rose Fulbright
Villanova University School of Law
Litigation

Jeff Margulies, partner-in-charge of both the Los Angeles and San Francisco offices of Norton Rose Fulbright, focuses his practice on litigation, compliance, and regulatory issues regarding consumer products and the companies that manufacture, distribute, and sell them. He defends companies in consumer class-action litigation matters relating to false advertising, product compliance, and privacy issues. His regulatory practice involves a variety of state, federal and international environmental, product safety, chemical management and related regulatory issues, advertising, and labeling requirements, as well as consumer privacy and encompasses compliance, enforcement, and litigation.

Margulies has extensive litigation experience in complex commercial, consumer, and personal injury litigation, including federal and state jury and bench trials in cases involving pharmaceutical product liability, asbestos, false advertising and privacy consumer class actions, environmental contamination, and regulatory litigation, including CEQA, administrative rulemaking, and California Proposition 65 enforcement actions. He also has an active appellate practice.

Nina Marino

Founding Partner
Kaplan Marino
University of LaVerne School of Law
Litigation

Nina Marino's complex litigation and white-collar crime practice is national in scope. She regularly negotiates with and litigates against the U.S. Department of Justice, local district attorneys, and other government agencies in her defense of people investigated or charged with matters involving healthcare fraud, international extradition, cybercrime, money laundering, customs violations, tax crimes, Ponzi schemes, public corruption, and regulatory issues involving cryptocurrency.

Right from the start, clients understand that Marino takes their cases as personally as they do. Her presentations to prosecutors introduce new perspectives, compelling context, and workable paths to resolution. Her unconventional combination of care, integrity, and formidable lawyering has earned her a national reputation and recognition. She discovers the shades of gray behind prosecutors' black-and-white arguments to shine new light on her clients' circumstances. Marino's team-driven, meticulously prepared strategies have repeatedly helped clients reach their objectives – from staying out of prison to defending allegations in trial.

Jordan Matthews

Business Trial Lawyer and Litigator
Weinberg Gonser LLP
Pepperdine University School of Law
Litigation

Jordan Matthews is a business trial lawyer and litigation partner at Weinberg Gonser Frost LLP since 2018 with broad experience in the entertainment industry and business community. He has litigated or otherwise been involved with matters pending in California, Nevada, and Massachusetts, argued before the Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Courts of Appeals, and been involved in high-profile litigation.

In December 2020, after a thorough investigation, Matthews filed a civil RICO case in the Central District of California on behalf of Angelica Limcaco and against Steve Wynn, et. al. over alleged attempts to use improper payments and influence to elevate Wynn Las Vegas' counsel to the position of a judge in the Nevada District Court and dismiss her case. Matthews and his team alleged a pattern of improper influence under the RICO statute, which directly coincided with Wynn's alleged involvement in lobbying the prior administration.

Peter Massumi

Co-Founder and Managing Partner
Massumi + Consoli LLP
Harvard Law School
Corporate

Peter Massumi is a co-founder and managing partner of Massumi + Consoli LLP, a boutique private equity-focused transactional law firm with offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York. Founded in 2015 as a spin-off from the Private Equity and M&A group of Kirkland & Ellis, MCLLP delivers market-leading counsel to private funds and other financial institutions, along with their portfolio companies, and other acquisitive private and public companies on complex private equity, M&A and debt financing transactions, and ongoing corporate matters.

Massumi and the firm count among their elite client roster some of the most discerning and respected investors in the country as they fulfill a mission of exceeding the client services of the most recognized international law firms at an unmatched value proposition. The firm continues its rapid expansion and now deploys a full in-house specialist team to provide its clients with full-service transactional support.

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Congratulations

on being recognized as
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Edward Quigley
Partner & Chairperson

Dwayne McKenzie
Managing Partner

LOS ANGELES
2029 Century Park East
Suite 2100
Los Angeles, CA 90067
t: 310.284.2200

ORANGE COUNTY
3121 Michelson Drive
Suite 200
Irvine, CA 92612
t: 949.260.4600

SAN FRANCISCO
50 California Street
Suite 3200
San Francisco, CA 94111
t: 415.262.5100

www.coxcastle.com

Dwayne McKenzie

Managing Partner
Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
UCLA School of Law
Labor & Employment

Dwayne McKenzie is managing partner at Cox, Castle & Nicholson and has a practice that has grown to meet the needs of a wide variety of real estate and construction industry clients in traditional labor relations, employment law, ERISA matters, and litigation in state and federal courts.

McKenzie represents owners, public agencies, developers, contractor trade associations, and employers in traditional labor relations. He counsels contractor associations and participates in industry-wide master labor agreement negotiations and legislative matters. He negotiates project labor agreements on behalf of owners and developers and provides ongoing representation for owners, developers, contractors, and contractor trade associations in managing relationships and resolving disputes with individual unions and building trades union councils. McKenzie has also been involved extensively in prevailing wage law legislation, interpretation, and litigation for over 20 years and is active in public works, prevailing wage, skilled and trained workforce, and related labor-related issues.

Sanford L. Michelman

Co-Founding Partner & Chairman
Michelman & Robinson, LLP
Southwestern University School of Law
Litigation

Sanford Michelman is one of the most celebrated litigators in Los Angeles and continues to be the attorney C-suite executives and business leaders turn to when faced with "bet the company" litigation matters considered to be the most challenging. He is also a dynamo in boardrooms nationwide, representing insurers, brokers/agents, underwriters, private equity groups, banks, and advertising and media companies. He is known for being among the most prolific rainmakers in the country.

At Michelman & Robinson, LLP, Sanford oversees a business that is thriving despite economic headwinds. Where other law firms are treading water or scaling back, he is engineering measured growth throughout M&R's seven offices spanning California, Texas, Illinois, and New York. The firm now boasts a roster of approximately 80 lawyers, a number that is slated to meaningfully increase this calendar year. He has established himself as one of the most notable lawyers in Los Angeles.

Alissa Miller

Partner
Akin Gump
UC Berkeley School of Law
Entertainment and Sports

Consistently regarded by eminent local and national media outlets as being among the entertainment industry's top lawyers and dealmakers, Akin Gump Entertainment and Media Partner Alissa Miller is widely recognized as a leader in her field for handling some of the industry's highest-visibility deals between independent movie production companies and financial institutions, as well as for her innovative media and entertainment-focused pro bono practice.

A leader within the firm and the industry, last year, Miller assumed the role of partner in charge of Akin's Los Angeles office and has served as a committed advocate for the entertainment industry during one of the most tumultuous times in recent memory: the COVID-19 pandemic. She co-led Akin's cross-practice efforts to assist a coalition of more than two dozen independent production companies in seeking COVID-19 relief aid to counterbalance pandemic-related shutdowns.

Mark Mizrahi

Partner
Freeman Freeman & Smiley, LLP
USC Gould School of Law
Intellectual Property

Mark Mizrahi is an accomplished intellectual property attorney with an impressive track record of success. Throughout his career, he has specialized in patent, trademark, and copyright litigation, and built a reputation as a trusted advisor to businesses across a variety of industries.

When an opportunity arose at his current firm, Freeman Freeman & Smiley, LLP, his dedication to growing the intellectual property practice and, most importantly, supporting and growing his own practice made it a unique opportunity. Since being with Freeman Freeman & Smiley, the congenial and supportive attitude, and the willingness to invest in growing the intellectual property practice has paid off well. As a trusted advisor to clients, Mizrahi has provided counsel on a wide range of intellectual property issues, including trademark and copyright applications, intellectual property agreements, and patent applications. He is known for his ability to help businesses protect their intellectual property rights.

Skip Miller

Partner
Miller Barondess, LLP
UCLA School of Law
Litigation

Skip Miller is an accomplished trial lawyer with victories for high-profile clients, including successfully representing investors who put a billion dollars into internet incubator Idealab; winning a $7-million judgment against musician Michael Jackson in a jury trial in Santa Maria; and prevailing in the Ninth Circuit and district court in a series of civil rights cases brought against the City of Los Angeles, the City of Beverly Hills and their mayors, chiefs of police, and city council members.

Miller also prosecuted trade secret/unfair competition cases for a manufacturing conglomerate, a private equity company, and the top hotel in Beverly Hills; defended the maker of Seven Jeans in a multi-hundred-million-dollar partnership dispute; and represented high-tech and manufacturing companies, including a public company in China with over 500,000 employees for which he won a $46-million jury verdict.

Michael Mortenson

Co-Founding Partner
Mortenson Taggart Adams LLP
Case Western Reserve University School of Law
Litigation

In July 2019, Michael Mortenson launched Mortenson Taggart Adams LLP. Since its inception, the firm has grown to 25 attorneys and staff. The firm represents Fortune 500 companies, innovative start-ups, emerging companies, and high-net-worth and high-profile individuals in a variety of matters. Since founding the firm, he has achieved numerous successful outcomes. In 2019, Mortenson secured a multi-million verdict following a two-week jury trial for a pro bono client that was recognized by Top Verdicts as one of California's Top 100 jury verdicts.

Mortenson has also won numerous precedent-setting summary judgment motions for Ford Motor Company in state and federal court. And just recently, he represented Rivian Automotive in a class action lawsuit that resulted in a complete pre-trial dismissal of the entire class action complaint along with Rule 11 sanctions. Throughout his career, Mortenson has also devoted himself to representing clients in pro bono matters.

Ann Marie Mortimer

Firm Partner; Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office; Head of Commercial Litigation Practice
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
UC Berkeley School of Law
Cybersecurity

Ann Marie Mortimer heads Hunton Andrews Kurth's commercial litigation practice and served as first chair defending Yahoo! in class actions stemming from reportedly the largest data breach in history with over three billion accounts impacted. She is the founder and managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office.

Mortimer is at the forefront of novel cybersecurity litigation threatening the fundamental business of global brands, counseling Fortune 50 companies on the novel challenges, and regulation endemic, including Fortune 1 big box retailer Walmart and name brand retailer Bath & Body Works, Inc., in some of the first alleged California Consumer Privacy Act actions in the state of California. She won a pivotal victory for Walmart in a putative class action including alleged violation of CCPA – one of the first decisions dismissing a CCPA claim on the merits that went on to impact other CCPA claims.

John Nadolenco

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office
Mayer Brown LLP
American University Washington College of Law
Litigation

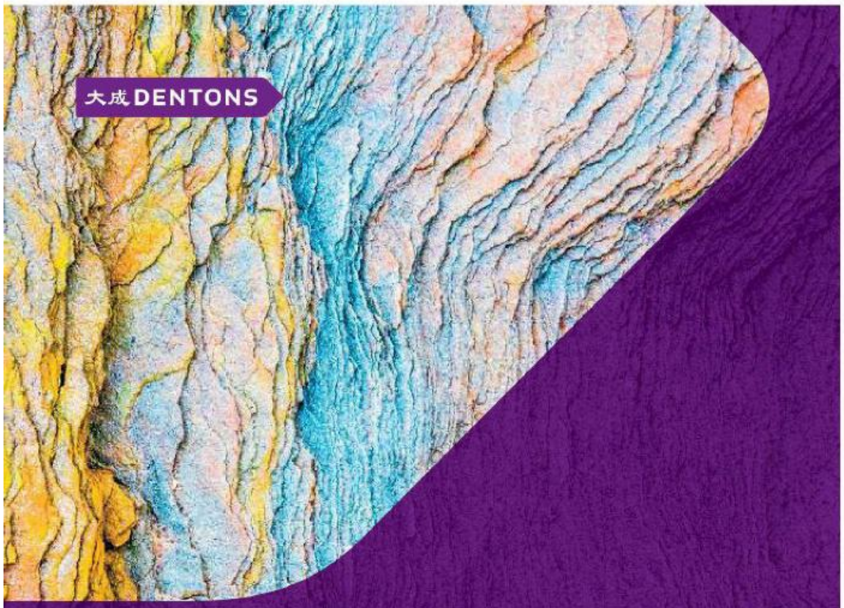
John Nadolenco has a successful civil litigation and trial practice focusing on high-stakes cases and class action defense, including defending consumer class actions, employment and anti-trust cases, and challenging inappropriate government regulations. He has defended companies in cases alleging improper consumer charges and practices, false and misleading advertising, defective products, unauthorized call recordings under California's Invasion of Privacy Act, violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, internet privacy violations, and improper tracking via computer-based cookies and improper use of smartphone and tablet applications.

In addition to managing Mayer Brown's Los Angeles Office, Nadolenco is passionate about creating a more diverse and inclusive legal community. He runs the Summer Fellowship Diversity Program through the American University College of Law. In partnership with eBay, Mayer Brown gives diverse students insights into what it means to work at a law firm and in-house at a company.

Sonia Nayak

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office
Nixon Peabody LLP
Pacific McGeorge School of Law
Corporate

Throughout her 18-year career at NP, Sonia Nayak has taken on a variety of leadership roles within her practice group, her office, and the broader firm. She serves as the office managing partner of the L.A. office and leads the firm's New Markets Tax Credits team, lending her knowledge on new capital for businesses looking to operate in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Nayak's practice focuses on real estate development and financing, and she has extensive experience with commercial lending, tax credit finance, and affordable housing. Much of her work is centered on leveraging alternative financing tools to make private capital available for much-needed community development projects nationwide. Nayak is inspired by work that translates into tangible results for clients and communities.



Dentons congratulates **Samuel Maizel** for being recognized as a 2023 legal Visionary in the L.A. Times B2B Publishing ***Business of Law*** Magazine.

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Crowell

We proudly congratulate Valerie Goo and Jennifer Romano for being selected to the *L.A. Times B2B Publishing*'s "Firm Attorneys" list, which recognizes their legal vision and leadership.

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Kristen J. Nesbit

Partner
Fisher Phillips LLP
Loyola Law School
Labor & Employment

A powerhouse lawyer with a record for successfully handling high-stakes matters, Kristen Nesbit is a trusted partner to her clients, including Fortune 500 companies, billion-dollar corporations, and public entities. She has handled numerous single-plaintiff and class action lawsuits, seeing them through to verdict. Her triumphs in the labor and employment arena, combined with her active community involvement, prestigious award recognitions, and commitment to championing diversity and equality make Nesbit a legal industry leader.

Committed to helping diverse business owners succeed, Nesbit regularly assists Disability-Owned Business Enterprise, Minority Business Enterprise, Women Business Enterprise, and Veteran Business Enterprise employers. Within Fisher Phillips, she serves as co-chair of the firm's California Litigation Practice Group and is one of the youngest practice group co-chairs within the firm, in addition to being the youngest female to co-chair a firmwide practice group at the time she was appointed to this role in 2019.

Christopher Ng

Managing Partner
Gibbs Giden
Caruso Pepperdine School of Law
Litigation

Christopher Ng is an equity partner, executive committee member, and managing partner of Gibbs Giden. He primarily represents companies in a wide range of business, commercial and construction negotiations, and disputes. He is a member of the State Bars of California and the District of Columbia and is licensed to practice in all California state and federal courts. Also, he is an educator, active speaker, published author, and frequent contributor to local, regional, and national legal publications.

Ng is nationally recognized in the field of construction law and regularly pens articles and contributes to treatises for construction industry professionals and other lawyers. In addition to his current position as an adjunct professor of business law at the School of Business and Economics at California State University Northridge, he has taught the Legal Environment of Business at Pepperdine University and been a guest lecturer of construction law at Loyola Law School.

Arameh Zargham O'Boyle

Member
Mintz
Pepperdine University School of Law
Litigation

Arameh Zargham O'Boyle is a trailblazer and the first female partner in Mintz's growing Los Angeles office. In her 15-plus years of practice, she has become one of the most sought-after attorneys product innovators and manufacturers rely on.

O'Boyle is a litigator who focuses her practice on defending product manufacturers in complex product liability and consumer class action litigation. She represents businesses in a variety of industries including cosmetics, personal care products, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter drugs, food, retail, and electronics. She regularly advises clients on product labeling and advertising strategies to navigate the requirements of the FDA's Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and mitigate challenges under California's consumer protection laws. O'Boyle represents companies in high-profile litigation and has extensive experience managing and coordinating complex class action and multidistrict litigation. Her clients regard her as strategic and creative; they trust her commonsense approach to problem-solving and appreciate her ability to resolve disputes efficiently.

R. Rex Parris

Founding and Managing Partner
PARRIS Law Firm
Southwestern School of Law
Litigation

In the last 12 months, R. Rex Parris has helped obtain a multi-billion-dollar settlement, a $120-million verdict, and -another roughly $50-million verdict. Few attorneys can boast such accomplishments over their entire career, let alone in a six-month period as the world is pulling out of a once-in-a-century pandemic.

He has achieved outstanding results in the courtroom over the span of his career. He obtained the first million-dollar verdict in California's Kern County as a young lawyer and, years later, obtained a historic, record-breaking defamation jury verdict in Los Angeles for $370 million. In between, Parris has obtained dozens of seven-, eight-, and nine-figure verdicts and settlements. His success is hardly happenstance – Rex prepares every case for trial using the latest science in persuasion skills. Everything from metaphoric choices, word selection, and visuals is tested and re-tested before each trial.

Michael M. Purpura

Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP
Columbia Law School
Litigation

Michael Purpura's unique blend of public and private sector experience allows him to provide clients with multi-dimensional counseling on the most complex legal issues. He has served as an adviser to two presidents, navigating the many tricky separation-of-powers issues involving the executive and legislative branches in high-profile legal and political battles. In prior work as a commercial litigator and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, he successfully tried many cases and argued numerous appeals.

Purpura is currently handling a series of very high-profile matters, including representing former White House counsel Pat Cipollone before the House Jan. 6 Committee and the Department of Justice. He is also representing former WWE Chairman and CEO Vince McMahon in investigations related to $12 million in payments to various women. The investigation is complex and has many components, including the DOJ, the SEC, and the WWE Board of Directors.

Kelly Perigoe

Partner
King & Spalding LLP
UCLA School of Law
Litigation

Kelly Perigoe has over a decade's worth of experience in federal and state courts, from the pre-litigation to appellate phases, for clients throughout the U.S. and internationally. She is regularly tapped to draft dispositive motions involving thorny issues and leads appellate strategy in clients' critical matters.

She led a Ninth Circuit appeal for VNG involving complicated jurisdictional issues after successfully obtaining dismissal in the trial court. Following a panel decision reversing the district court's dismissal, Perigoe will lead the team in filing a cert petition before the Supreme Court. She also led the briefing and strategy in a Seventh Circuit appeal for Molina Healthcare, Inc. from a dismissal with prejudice that she obtained in the Northern District of Illinois in an important False Claims Act qui tam action. After a split decision in the Seventh Circuit, Perigoe handled a cert petition raising two important circuit splits under the FCA.

Edward Francis Quigley

Co-Chairman and Partner
Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP
UC Berkeley School of Law
Litigation

Ed Quigley is a litigation attorney with vast experience in handling complex litigation, including construction claims, insurance coverage disputes, and general commercial litigation.

Quigley is co-chairman of Cox Castle and is the chair of the firm's litigation department. He represents developers, lending institutions, property owners, lessees, managers, real estate investors, and others involved in the real estate industry. He has extensive experience litigating a broad range of commercial disputes, including construction claims and disputes, partnership/corporate governance disputes, fraud & breach of fiduciary duty claims, valuation disputes, lease disputes, unfair business practice claims, insurance coverage litigation, breach of contract and easement disputes, and non-disclosure claims. Quigley's experience extends into state court, federal court, private arbitration, and public works arbitration. Recent cases include his work prosecuting an $85-million construction claim for a project involving a hotel with 420 condominium units, entertainment venues, bars, and restaurants.

Zev Raben

Partner
Ramo Law PC
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Entertainment and Sports

Providing guidance and advice to financiers and distribution companies, Zev Raben brings his depth of legal experience to bear for his clients in all aspects of their varied businesses. While his practice is primarily focused on representing financiers and distribution companies, he also assists producers in all areas of their creative pursuits. He has worked with producers whose films have been recognized by the Sundance Film Festival and SXSW. His past experience as an entertainment litigator makes him well-equipped to identify potential issues early on in transactions.

Over the last couple of years, Raben has done financing legal work on Anna Kendrick's directorial debut "Dating Game" (currently in post-production); "Sweetwater" (2023) starring Cary Elwes, Eric Roberts, and Richard Dreyfuss; the 2022 Sundance Film Festival world premiere of "Dual;" "Paradise City" (2022) starring Bruce Willis and John Travolta; and "National Champions" (2021) starring J.K. Simmons.

Brenda K. Radmacher

Akerman LLP
Partner, Litigation, Construction
USC Gould School of Law
Litigation

Brenda Radmacher is a distinguished litigation partner at Akerman LLP with over 25 years of experience in construction law. She has helped resolve complex disputes through mediation, negotiation, arbitration, and litigation for construction companies, developers, design professionals, and owners in California, across the United States and internationally. Radmacher has also assisted her clients with regulatory compliance issues concerning California's Proposition 65, ADA, OSHA, and employment and COVID-19 issues. She played a key role in the litigation of the Champlain Towers South Condominium case, which involved over 40 parties and non-parties and required extensive investigation, testing, and sampling, leading to a settlement in excess of $1.1 billion.

Radmacher has also contributed to the construction industry as a speaker and writer, sharing her insights on various legal issues affecting the construction industry. She has received numerous accolades and recognitions for her hard work and dedication, including being recognized as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California by the Daily Journal, a "Woman of Influence" by the Los Angeles Business Journal, and a finalist for the 2023 Jerrold S. Oliver Award of Excellence.

Scott Rahn

Founding Partner
RMO LLP
University of San Diego School of Law
Litigation

Scott Rahn resolves contests, disputes, and litigation related to trusts, estates, and conservatorships, creating a welcome peace of mind for clients. He represents heirs, beneficiaries, trustees, and executors. He utilizes his experience to develop and implement strategies that swiftly and cost-effectively address the financial issues, fiduciary duties, and emotional complexities underlying trust contests, estates conflicts, and probate litigation.

Driven by a commitment to provide relief to people grieving the loss of a loved one, Rahn collaborates closely with clients. He pursues and defends claims involving incapacity, incompetence, undue influence, breach of fiduciary duty, and other similar areas of dispute. His advice and counsel include prevention and remediation of financial elder abuse. Rahn is known for in-depth financial investigations and deftly handling intra-family dynamics and decades-long family friction. He has extensive experience in courts, arbitration, mediation, and dispute resolution forums.

Christy Von der Ahe Rayburn

Partner
Hueston Hennigan LLP
Harvard Law School
Intellectual Property

Christy Von der Ahe Rayburn litigates high-profile, high-stakes technology disputes for companies of all sizes, including Amazon.com, Monster Energy, BlackBerry, ClearOne, and Acorn Technologies. Described by clients as "a fierce advocate" and "intensely brilliant at understanding the detail and complexity of the subject matter, while retaining a clear view of the big issues and impact on strategy," she has experience in patent, copyright, and trade secret litigation at every stage.

Rayburn is a force in the courtroom, having recently obtained a summary judgment of non-infringement in favor of Amazon.com, Inc. against claims for patent infringement brought by serial patent litigant MasterObjects, Inc. In 2021, she also won two trials and a Federal Circuit appeal. In May 2021, she won a $25-million trial victory for Acorn Technologies in a patent infringement case. Rayburn is deeply invested in her clients' cases, paying close attention to strategic decisions at every step.

Kelly Megan Raney

Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP
USC Gould School of Law
Labor & Employment

Kelly Raney, a partner in Greenberg Glusker's Employment Group, counsels and defends employers and management in the full range of employment law issues at the state and federal levels. She represents and advises clients of all sizes, from start-ups and high-net-worth individuals to Fortune 500 companies on matters ranging from employment policies, practices and compliance, pre-litigation disputes and investigations, and all stages of litigation. She has also litigated high-stakes intellectual property and commercial contract disputes, which included state and federal trials, authoring briefs, and appearing at the federal appellate level.

Raney applies her high-stakes litigation skills and degrees in economics and business to strategically advise and protect her clients' interests, with an understanding of her clients' priorities and goals. She has a proven track record of successfully resolving matters to her clients' satisfaction and has the experience to see a dispute through to the end.

Angela Reddock-Wright

Employment Mediator & Arbitrator
Reddock Law/Signature Resolution
UCLA School of Law
Labor & Employment

Recently inducted into the prestigious College of Labor & Employment Lawyers, Angela Reddock-Wright is an employment mediator, arbitrator, workplace, and Title IX investigator. She has practiced as an employment and labor law attorney for 26 years. After working as an employment litigator for 15 years, in 2011, she opened the Reddock Law Group and transitioned to becoming a full-time neutral. In addition to having her own firm, she is a member of the panel of mediators and arbitrators at Signature Resolution, a private dispute resolution firm with offices throughout California.

Reddock-Wright is also a published author, trainer, speaker, and legal commentator. Her mission is to help employers and employees create great and healthy workplaces. She hosts her own radio show on Tavis Smiley's KBLA Talk 1580 titled "Legal Lens with Angela Reddock-Wright," for which she interviews top attorneys, legislators, policy, and change makers.

Christian Scali

Founder & Managing Shareholder
Scali Rasmussen
The Ohio State University College of Law
Litigation

Christian Scali has a diverse practice that includes advice and counsel, and complex and high-stakes litigation. His clients are in a variety of industries, including restaurant and hospitality, property management, entertainment, clothing manufacturing, and e-commerce, but the majority of them are in the retail automotive industry. Scali is known for his work on behalf of the retail automotive industry in a series of advertising lawsuits brought against it under California's Unfair Competition Law.

Scali also regularly assists clients with mergers and acquisitions. While he is always a fierce advocate for his clients, when he is engaged in a buy/sell his focus is on making the deal. Years of litigating buy/sell and commercial lease disputes on behalf of his clients have made him an effective transactional attorney. Scali also creates effective corporate compliance and ethics programs for his clients.

Jennifer Romano

Crowell & Moring LLP
Partner
UC Berkeley School of Law
Litigation

Jennifer Romano is a litigation partner in Crowell & Moring's Los Angeles office, co-chair of the firm's litigation & trial department, and a member of the firm's management board. She represents clients as both plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal courts, as well as in arbitration and mediation, and focuses her practice on defending companies against consumer class actions, litigating on behalf of healthcare companies, and representing companies in high-stakes litigation matters. Romano has an active pro bono practice and serves on the board of the Berkeley Law Alumni Association and Bet Tzedek.

Over the past two years, Romano was lead counsel on a number of successful cases, including defending Enterprise against claims of negligence and negligent hiring; representing the University of California in a case challenging the DHS's announcement to rescind visas of international students if they were enrolled in only online classes; and obtaining a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction on behalf of Planned Parenthood in its challenge to restrictions on abortion in Kentucky. Romano also represents UnitedHealth Group and its affiliates in numerous cases alleging violation of the Mental Health Parity Act.

Todd B. Scherwin

Regional Managing Partner
Fisher Phillips LLP
USC Gould School of Law
Labor & Employment

Fisher Phillips' Todd Scherwin is a powerful and effective advocate for Los Angeles-area business clients facing thorny employment issues and perilous lawsuits. One of California's premier labor and employment attorneys, he has blazed a trail in the ever-evolving world of California employment law through highly successful advocacy – including a track record of victories for employers and, recently, sitting at the counsel table before the U.S. Supreme Court. He has also led the firm's burgeoning Los Angeles office since 2013, opened a Woodland Hills office in 2021, and founded (and co-chairs) the firm's Sports Industry Team.

Scherwin recently won a summary judgment in Los Angeles Superior Court for a leading restaurant chain against a former employee's wrongful termination, harassment, and discrimination claims and served as Counsel of Record in the U.S. Supreme Court for amicus curiae Restaurant Law Center, a public policy organization affiliated with the National Restaurant Association.

Leonora "Lenny" M. Schloss

Partner
Jackson Lewis, P.C.
Columbia University Law School
Labor & Employment

Leonora "Lenny" Schloss is a partner in the Los Angeles office of the national labor and employment law firm, Jackson Lewis, P.C. She is a first-generation American, her parents having fled World War II in Eastern Europe. Navigating the fine print for her family from a relatively young age influenced her desire to become an attorney. After several years of defending general business litigation, Schloss solely concentrated her practice on employment law defense. She is skilled in providing advice, counsel, and training to clients. Also, she is the leader of the California Wage and Hour Internal Audit Subgroup at her firm and a frequent speaker at human resources and other organizations on minimizing employment law liability and other employment-related topics.

Schloss' style has been characterized as "thoughtful aggression." It is through her litigation and several published decisions that she has helped shape California employment law.

Joshua Schneiderman

Partner
Snell & Wilmer
UCLA School of Law
Corporate

Joshua Schneiderman is a corporate and securities partner in the Los Angeles office of Snell & Wilmer. He advises clients on a wide range of transactional matters, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and public and private offerings of debt and equity securities. He also advises clients on matters related to franchising as well as public and private companies on corporate governance matters.

Schneiderman is an instrumental member of the corporate and securities practice group who was voted into the partnership after just two years with the firm. He has served as lead counsel on sophisticated mergers and acquisitions and financing matters, assisting clients with access to much-needed capital in turbulent financial markets. He is excellent at managing a deal team and serving as the point person to coordinate the flow of work and responsibilities among investment bankers, accounting firms, public relations firms, and legal specialists.

Dominique Shelton Leipzig

Partner
Mayer Brown LLP
Georgetown University Law Center
Cybersecurity

Dominique Shelton Leipzig joined Mayer Brown in 2022 to lead the firm's global data innovation team that is devoted to providing special counsel to officers and directors in the Fortune 500 and late-stage private companies regarding data innovation through strategic attention to data privacy, cybersecurity, and algorithmic fairness. She also leads the firm's AdTech privacy and data management team, where she advises Fortune 500 companies on navigating through the disruption in the $500 billion digital advertising ecosystem stemming from privacy and data protection laws in 150 countries.

Leipzig uses her knowledge and influence to shape how companies use and think about data and make companies understand data privacy is more than a compliance issue – it is a business imperative. With 160 data protection laws now in place, she has become the tech industry's go-to lawyer on evolving data privacy issues.

Miwa Shoda

Partner and Co-Chair of the Japan Practice
Jenner & Block LLP
University of Chicago Law School
Corporate

Born and raised in Japan, Miwa Shoda passed the country's bar exam when the passing rate was only 2.5%. She began her career at one of Japan's premier law firms and with the blessing and support of that firm, she traveled to the United States for her LLM degree and passed the California and New York bar exams in her second language. She then made the unheard-of transition from visiting attorney to associate followed by partner at an AmLaw 100 firm.

Since joining a U.S. firm with no Asia footprint, Shoda has been pivotal in representing Japanese companies facing legal issues in the U.S. Calling on her international education and understanding of the business cultural differences, she developed her skills for navigating Japanese clients through domestic issues. She has a strong ability to articulate complicated legal concepts and strategies across practice areas in complex litigation and sophisticated transactions.

Jeffrey Sklar

Co-Chairman
Sklar Kirsh LLP
Loyola Law School
Corporate

Jeffrey Sklar is a co-chairman of Sklar Kirsh LLP, the chair of the firm's corporate department, and a member of the management committee. His clients range from individuals and early-stage companies to large corporations. Sklar advises clients in a variety of industries including advertising, alternative energy, apparel, consumer products, entertainment and media, manufacturing, medical devices, restaurants/hospitality, social media, and technology. His principal areas of practice are corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, partner dispute resolution, and executive compensation.

Sklar is active in the Los Angeles community and serves on the advisory board for the Transactional Lawyering Institute of Loyola Law School as well as the board of directors of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces Western Region, de Toledo High School, and Stephen S. Wise Temple. He is also a volunteer with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in its Election Protection program.

MusickPeeler

We congratulate our Partners **Michael Klein** and **Daniel Taylor** for their dedication and commitment to clients.

Michael Klein

Daniel Taylor

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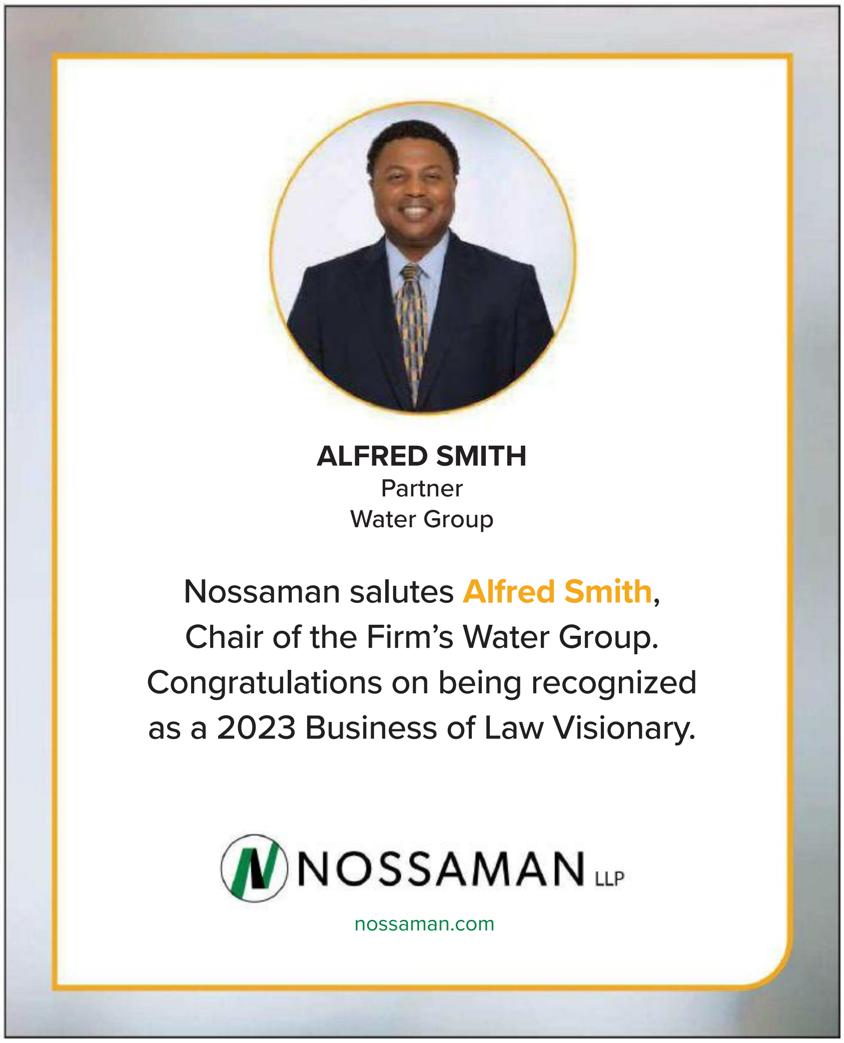

ALFRED SMITH
Partner
Water Group

Nossaman salutes **Alfred Smith**,
Chair of the Firm's Water Group.
Congratulations on being recognized
as a 2023 Business of Law Visionary.

NOSSAMAN LLP
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LEGAL VISIONARIES

Chris Staton Spicer

Partner
Akin
Georgetown University
Entertainment and Sports

Akin Partner and Entertainment Practice Head Chris Spicer is among the preeminent film finance lawyers in the country, regularly leading some of the industry's highest-visibility deals between independent movie production companies and major financial institutions for household-name film and television projects. Often finding creative solutions to complex issues, he has been instrumental to financial institution clients given the rapidly changing landscape for content creation and consumption, and a challenging, competitive environment for financial institutions, specifically within the last two years.

For example, Spicer, in coordination with the firm's corporate practice, advised HPS Investment Partners, a leading global investment firm, in connection with a multibranched $550-million credit facility to Kobalt Music Group, one of the world's largest music publishers, featuring artists such as Childish Gambino, Elvis Presley, Paul McCartney, and Stevie Nicks. He led the Akin team that structured a highly complex first-in, last-out loan to Kobalt.

Alfred Smith

Chair, Water Law Group
Nossaman
Harvard Law School
Corporate

Alfred Smith, chair of Nossaman's Water Group, is a recognized expert in water, environmental, transportation, and public agency law. A graduate of the Harvard Law School, he has successfully litigated multiple water rights adjudications, and secured more than $750 million worth of contamination settlements in favor of his clients.

Smith is a trusted advisor on matters involving water rights, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Colorado River and Pueblo rights, recycled water, water resource development, contamination remediation, groundwater adjudications, water transfers, desalination, conjunctive use, climate change, and environmental regulatory compliance. He has also developed urban water management plans, water supply assessments, and environmental impact reports for a wide range of residential and commercial developments. An experienced general counsel to multiple government agencies, Smith is an expert on all aspects of public agency governance and operations. He has successfully litigated at all levels.

Julia B. Strickland

Managing Partner,
Los Angeles Office
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
UCLA School of Law
Litigation

For more than three decades, Julia Strickland has been at the forefront of counseling, advocating, and dispute resolution within the financial services sector, having litigated a myriad of individual, class action, and bet-the-company cases. As chair of Stroock's Financial Services Litigation, Regulation, and Enforcement Group, a member of Stroock's national Executive Committee, and managing partner of its Los Angeles office, she has amassed a diverse and talented team of litigators who service the most sophisticated global financial services entities.

Strickland's significant professional accomplishments have resulted in many honors and awards. Chambers wrote that Strickland "is routinely sought after by clients for her compliance counseling and representation in regulatory proceedings, in addition to her general commercial litigation work. She is smart, effective, well-connected, and well-regarded by judges." Her clients say she has an "uncanny ability to anticipate opposing counsel" as well as being "very customer-focused and practical."

Brian Sun

Partner
Norton Rose Fulbright
USC Gould School of Law
Litigation

Brian Sun is a seasoned trial lawyer, experienced in complex business litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and multi-jurisdictional investigation matters. A fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, his litigation practice covers a range of areas, including matters involving unfair competition, intellectual property, commercial bribery, public corruption, entertainment, shareholder rights, contractual disputes, fraud, and cross-border issues.

Sun's clients include Global Fortune 500 institutions and high-profile individuals embroiled in high-stakes litigation. Over the years, he has represented such clients as Hon Hai Precision Co. (Foxconn), Mattel, Emerson Electric Co., Air China, Ltd., EFG Bank AG, Sanofi-Aventis, the City of Los Angeles, and a number of individuals, including former Orange County Sheriff Michael Carona and Dr. Wen Ho Lee in his successful civil lawsuit against the U.S. government. Sun served as a deputy general counsel to the Christopher Commission, which recommended sweeping reforms of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Craig Taggart

Co-Founder and Trial Attorney
Mortenson Taggart Adams LLP
University of San Diego
School of Law
Litigation

Craig Taggart is a partner at Mortenson Taggart Adams LLP. He is a trial attorney who has worked on high-profile litigation matters in California and throughout the country in addition to being involved in some of the biggest cases in Southern California. Taggart focuses his practice on automotive, securities, and general business litigation. He has been active in litigating cases for automobile manufacturers. In 2020, Taggart represented Rivian Automotive in a class action lawsuit that resulted in a complete dismissal.

Taggart has been actively involved in representing clients in pro bono matters and has been particularly active in representing California foster care group homes. Indeed, he represented group homes in a landmark case that resulted in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit finding that California violated the Child Welfare Act by underfunding group homes.

Daniel Taylor

Partner
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP
USC Gould School of Law
Litigation

Daniel Taylor is a partner with the Musick, Peeler & Garrett's Los Angeles office. He is a member of the firm's Litigation Practice Group with extensive experience representing clients in complex litigation in state and federal court. He has tried several cases to successful verdicts and successfully argued cases on appeal before the California Courts of Appeal and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Taylor's practice focuses on commercial litigation; trademark, copyright, and trade secret litigation and counseling; unfair competition litigation and counseling; product liability litigation; healthcare, technology, software, cybersecurity/data privacy, Internet-of-Things (IoT), and automation matters. He represents clients of all types and sizes including publicly traded companies, middle-market and small businesses, government entities, start-ups, and individuals. On the intellectual property side, he successfully enforced copyright claims on behalf of digital artist collectives against sellers of digital tokens.

Yael Tobi

Partner
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP
Loyola Law School
Litigation

Yael Tobi is a partner at Munck Wilson Mandala, practicing in the firm's IP and complex litigation groups. As a former professional tennis player who spent most of her childhood traveling around the world, she gained great insight and understanding of various cultures. This ability to relate and acclimate globally has been a critical factor for MWM's U.S. expansion. Tobi's cultural intelligence has enabled her to provide effective, successful representation to numerous foreign and domestic clients, including Fortune 500 corporations, public and private companies, law firms, and high-profile individuals in complex high-stakes matters.

Tobi also has her real estate license and has boosted MWM's efforts to expand services to real estate clients. As a partner in the firm's L.A. office, she specializes in representing businesses and individuals in a broad range of commercial litigation disputes focusing on intellectual property, entertainment, labor and employment, securities fraud, and white-collar criminal defense.

Perrie Michael Weiner

Partner in Charge of the Los Angeles Office, and Chair of the Firm's North America Securities Litigation Group
Baker McKenzie
Loyola Law School
Litigation

Perrie Weiner is the partner in charge of Baker McKenzie's Los Angeles office and chair of the firm's North America Securities Litigation Group. He joined the firm less than four years ago when there were only four lawyers in the L.A. office.

While under his leadership, and despite these early and significant challenges, the Los Angeles office has seen tremendous growth, becoming one of Baker McKenzie's fastest-growing office locations. Opened in 2018 with four lawyers, the L.A. office has grown under Weiner's leadership to 51 attorneys and professional staff providing notable expertise in securities litigation and SEC enforcement, lease litigation and restructuring, employment & compensation, M&A, capital markets, tax, consumer and privacy class actions, products liability, privacy compliance, and cybersecurity. With more than 30 years of experience, Weiner's practice focuses on securities litigation and enforcement matters, and complex business litigation.

Jenifer C. Wallis

Co-Managing Partner
Munck Wilson Mandala, LLP
Samford University
Cumberland School of Law
Intellectual Property

Munck Wilson Mandala partner Jenifer Wallis is the co-managing partner of the Los Angeles office, making her the first woman at the firm to hold a managing partner title. Since joining the firm in 2019, her commitment to growth and professional excellence has helped MWM expand through business development and recruiting efforts. She has helped the firm grow from five to 14 attorneys in the L.A. office in the past two years.

MWM's executive committee considers Wallis a trailblazer. She has demonstrated the highest commitment to expanding the firm brand in the L.A. market and her knowledge of the culture has placed the firm's L.A. office in the lead ahead of other firm offices in both attorney headcount and DEI initiatives. Through her effective recruiting, business development, and mentorship efforts, the L.A. office boasts the highest percentage of female attorneys and an increased number of minority attorneys.

Willkie is proud to congratulate our partner **Alex Weingarten** on being recognized as a **2023 Visionary** by *L.A. Times B2B Publishing*

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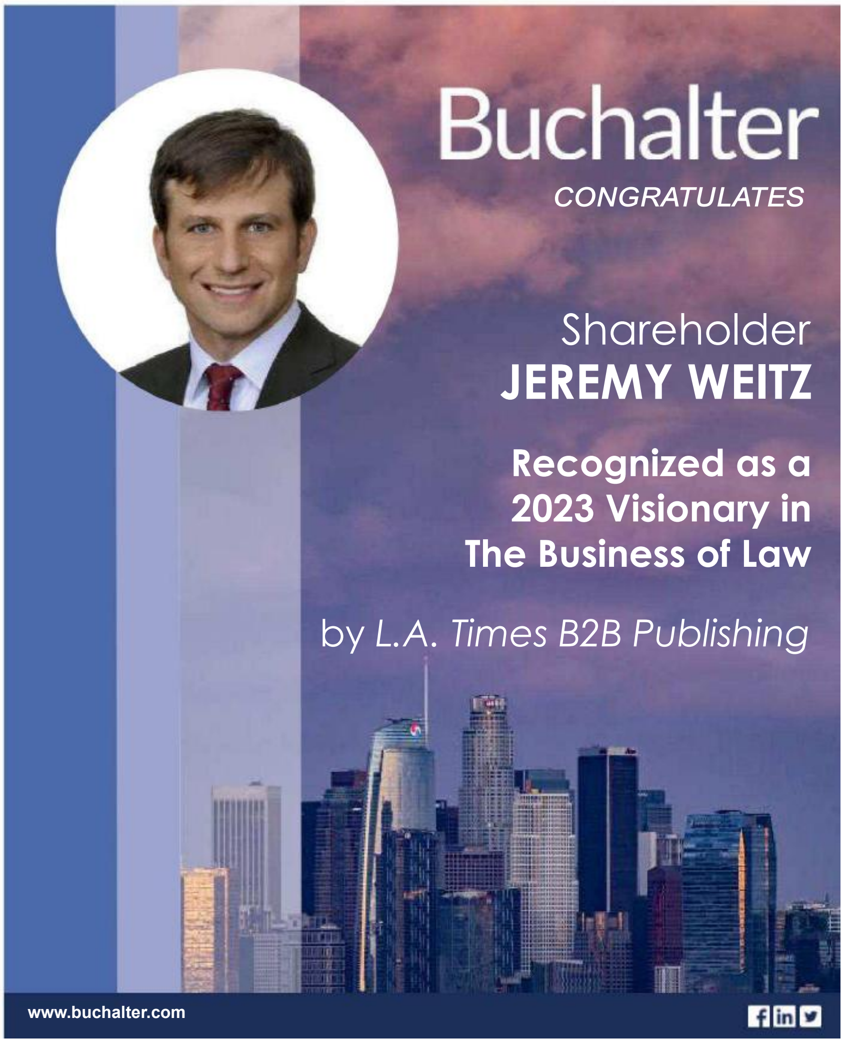

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Alex M. Weingarten

Managing Partner, Los Angeles Office
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Georgetown University
Litigation

Alex Weingarten serves as managing partner of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP's Los Angeles office and chair of the firm's Entertainment Litigation Practice. He is a leading commercial trial lawyer who represents clients in all facets of entertainment, probate, and business litigation. Clients look to Weingarten to handle "bet-the-company" cases, protect their integrity during the very public litigation process, provide a fresh approach, and suggest novel and overlooked strategies. He is aggressive in optimizing results and prides himself on finding the most direct route to victory. Weingarten is known for his tenacity and zealous advocacy on behalf of clients.

In addition to serving his clients, Weingarten joined Willkie as managing partner of the new Los Angeles office and co-led its launch and rapid expansion. On behalf of Selena Gomez, he is suing the developers of the game "Clothes Forever" for their unauthorized use of her name and likeness.

Steven B. Weisburd

Shareholder and Managing Partner of the Los Angeles Office
Carlton Fields, LLP
Litigation

Known as the "case killer" for his success in securing defense verdicts, judgments, dismissals, or favorable settlements, trial and appellate lawyer Steven B. Weisburd has more than 30 years of experience litigating complex civil disputes, mass tort cases, and class actions for major corporate clients and product manufacturers, including high-profile cases of national and international significance. He has developed a reputation for winning the unwinnable and has become a go-to lawyer for clients seeking to derail bet-the-company litigation.

Among his successes, Weisburd was a lead legal architect behind Philip Morris' victory against virtually all odds in the foreign courts for the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), a former U.S. territory, which filed suit to recover all money spent by the RMI in treating smoking-related illnesses after the tobacco industry defendants settled similar lawsuits filed by the 50 states for hundreds of billions of dollars.

[Continued from page 10]

- 56% of corporate lawyers and 45% of law firm lawyers report increased demands for ESG guidance over the past year. Most say their organization is not very prepared to keep up.

Also, clearly established in 2022 is the trend on changes in how legal work gets done and who is doing it with each area showing increases over prior years:

- For corporate legal departments: 84% report greater use of contract staff; greater use of non-legal staff to perform work; and greater use of alternative legal service providers.
- For law firms: 81% report greater use of third-party or outsourced resources; 78% report greater use of non-legal staff to perform work and greater use of contract staff; and 77% report more client self-service.

The 2022 findings also build on prior years' survey results relating to performance trends, which show that across a wide range of areas legal organizations that fully leverage technology outperform organizations that do not.

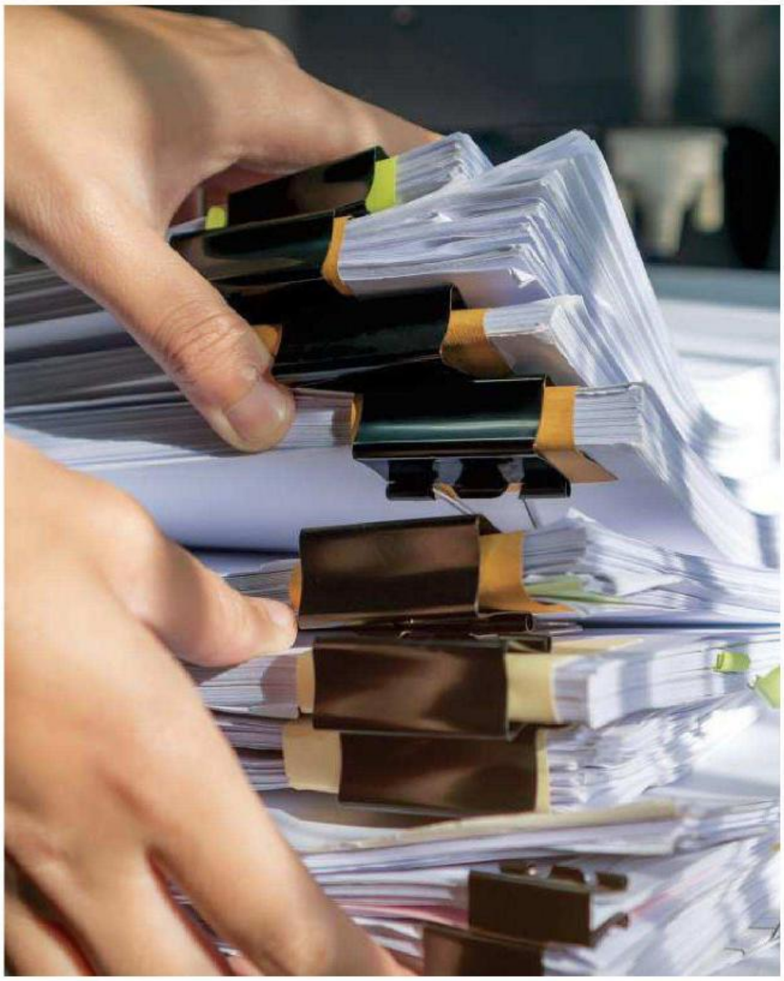
- Law firms that fully embrace technology were once again more profitable than those that do not: 63% of technology-leading firms report their profitability increased over the past year compared to 46% of other firms.

Legal organizations felt the impact of the "great resignation" over the past year, and based on survey findings, more talent challenges are coming:

- 86% of corporate lawyers and 70% of law firm lawyers say the great resignation has had a very or somewhat significant impact on their organization.
- 70% of corporate lawyers and 58% of law firm lawyers say they are very or somewhat likely to leave their current position in the next year.

Organizations are not well-prepared to handle the talent churn. Only:

- 33% of legal departments are very prepared to recruit/retain legal staff; 36% are very prepared to recruit/retain technology staff.
- 28% of law firms are very prepared to recruit/retain legal staff; 33% to recruit/retain technology staff.



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Technology is crucial to talent:

- 87% of corporate lawyers and 83% of lawyers in law firms say it's extremely or very important to work for a legal organization that leverages technology.

LEGAL VISIONARIES

Michael R. Weiss

Akerman LLP
Office Managing Partner
Santa Clara University School of Law
Litigation

Michael Weiss is the office managing partner at Akerman's Los Angeles office, overseeing over 50 attorneys and responsible for the day-to-day operations. He is an experienced litigator who guides clients through complex disputes, including real estate litigation, commercial and business disputes, and complex insurance insolvency matters. He is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and has been recognized by the Los Angeles Business Journal as a "Leader of Influence–Litigators & Trial Attorneys."

In 2022, he obtained a summary judgment on the eve of trial in favor of a multi-billion-dollar international salmon filet distributor and obtained a prejudgment writ of attachment and multi-million-dollar settlement on the eve of trial in a breach of contract case involving a failed real estate development project. He also obtained a summary judgment in favor of another multi-billion-dollar group of companies in two related commercial class actions. Additionally, Weiss fosters a culture of pro bono service, and the Los Angeles office collaborates with local organizations such as Our Big Kitchen Los Angeles to fight food insecurity.

Jeremy Weitz

Shareholder
Buchalter
Loyola Law School
Corporate

Jeremy Weitz is chair of Buchalter's Corporate Practice Group and co-chair of the firm's Mergers & Acquisitions Practice. His expertise covers mergers and acquisitions, private equity, publicly and privately traded securities, venture capital, corporate maintenance and formation, corporate finance, and licensing. He represents clients in a variety of industries, including apparel, retail, beauty, food, fitness, technology, software, e-commerce, aerospace and defense, manufacturing, and entertainment that range in size from small start-ups to multi-billion-dollar publicly traded corporations. Weitz routinely serves as outside general counsel for his corporate clients.

He represents both buyers and sellers in merger and acquisition transactions. His mergers and acquisitions practice is focused on the middle market with transaction values ranging between $10 million to $3 billion. Weitz routinely lectures on mergers and acquisitions and the apparel industry. He has also served as a faculty lecturer for the Practicing Law Institute.

Bart H. Williams

Partner, Chair of the Litigation Department
Proskauer
Yale Law School
Litigation

Bart Williams is one of the nation's most sought-after trial lawyers and commercial litigators. A leader within the Proskauer firm, he is the chair of the litigation department and heads the Los Angeles office. A strategic, diligent, and persuasive litigator with a wealth of experience across commercial litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and internal corporate investigations, Williams is equally expert at counseling clients on the management of their most complex litigation crises and trying their most important cases before juries and judges. He frequently is called in just months or even weeks before a trial to deliver the win.

Among Williams' recent notable representations has been his work as lead trial counsel for Gilead Sciences in various California state and federal product liability actions brought by ~20,000 plaintiffs related to Gilead's HIV prevention and treatment drugs.

Jason T. Yu

Partner
Snell & Wilmer
Loyola Law School
Labor & Employment

Jason Yu is a labor and employment and commercial litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Snell & Wilmer, a full-service business law firm with more than 450 attorneys practicing in 16 locations throughout the United States and Mexico, including three offices in California. His practice focuses on a broad spectrum of employment liability, commercial litigation, intellectual property, and transactional work.

Yu has significant experience in cases involving debt collection, labor and employment law matters, and trade secret misappropriation. His clients are individuals and corporations, including major manufacturers, banking and financial institutions, transportation and shipping companies, import and export logistics companies, clothing manufacturers and retail clothing businesses, professional partnerships, and technology companies. As a labor and employment litigator, he offers his clients comprehensive advice relating to labor and employment law matters. He counsels clients regarding state and federal regulations affecting employers.

Jason Ziven

Of Counsel
Sanders Roberts LLP
University of Miami
Entertainment and Sports

Jason Ziven represents Fortune 500 companies, entrepreneurs, and high-profile entertainers in complex business litigation matters. He also advises live entertainment companies, digital native talent, musicians, and directors on transactional matters. His diverse background in business provides him with unique knowledge and relationships that benefit individuals and businesses when they are navigating legal and business issues. He also serves as a senior advisor to Ballard Partner, one of the largest national bipartisan public affairs firms.

Ziven's diversified high-level experiences and set of relationships in entertainment, real estate, financial, and political ecosystems provide him with a unique ability to advise his clients in both complex and highly sensitive litigation and transactional matters. Recently, many of the leading real estate and sports companies in Los Angeles, as well as high-profile talent and producers, have retained him to represent their interests in complex and sensitive business and employment litigation matters.

Richard J. Wittbrodt

Partner
Gibbs Giden
Caruso Pepperdine School of Law
Litigation

Richard J. Wittbrodt is an equity partner at Gibbs Giden. He is recognized as a leading construction lawyer and a prolific speaker and author, including co-author of the seminal construction law treatise, California Construction Law. He has been a member of the governing committee for the ABA Forum on Construction Law, the largest organization of construction lawyers in the world.

Wittbrodt's primary emphasis is in construction litigation, including prosecuting and defending claims of delay, design issues, breach of contract, warranty of plans and specifications, prompt payment requirements, contract interpretation issues, lost profits, disruption, defective construction, mechanics lien, and stop notice foreclosure actions, for both public and private projects. He has experience representing owners, designers, general contractors, and subcontractors on multi-million-dollar complex cases involving hospitals, hotels, commercial structures, educational institutions, and transportation and other infrastructure projects. He is also a mediator and arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association.

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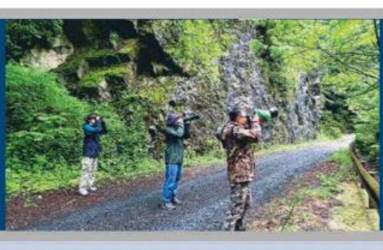
BIRDS EYE VIEW
LARGE-SCALE MONITORING PROJECTS LAUNCHED
SOCIETY, PAGE 2



MAGICAL STRINGS
ANCIENT ZITHER CAPTIVATES YOUNGER ADMIRERS
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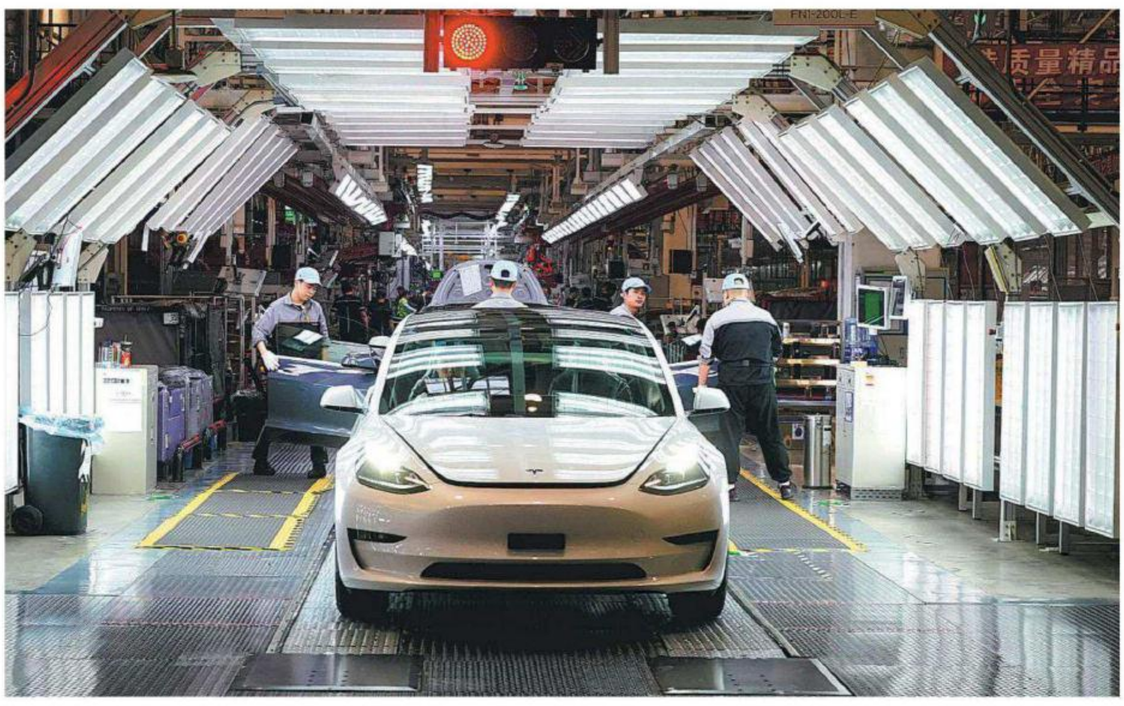
Unified market set to boost vitality



Workers put final touches to a vehicle at Tesla's gigafactory in Shanghai. GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

China will continue to push for greater market access for foreign investors as part of its ongoing efforts to expand high-level opening-up and build a unified national market, the Ministry of Commerce has said.

Analysts said this signals the country's resolve to build a fully open market, deepen market-oriented reforms and remove barriers within the fragmented domestic market, which will stimulate market vitality and significantly boost market confidence, especially among foreign businesses.

They said China is dedicated to opening wider to the outside world, and expect more efforts to be made to expand opening-up in fields such as the modern services sector.

"The unified national market we are constructing will be a globally oriented and fully open market, which will undoubtedly provide a better environment and a bigger platform for various market entities, including foreign companies," Zhou Qiang, director of the ministry's department of market system development, said at a news briefing on June 5.

Zhou said that China will appropriately shorten the negative list for foreign investment to further cancel or relax restrictions on market access. It will align with high-standard international economic and trade rules to deepen reforms and steadily advance institutional opening-up.

More efforts will also be made to better serve foreign companies and create a world-class environment for foreign investment, he said.

Zhu Jianqiao, director of the comprehensive planning department of the State Administration for Market Regulation, highlighted the role of fair competition in supporting the growth of the unified national market, saying that China will strengthen supervision and law enforcement against market intervention behavior and consolidate the institutional and regulatory foundations for fair competition.

He said the country will accelerate the revision of the Anti-Unfair Competition Law, promote the introduction of the regulation on fair competition review and optimize the registration system for enterprises moving from one region to another.

China's fresh efforts to court foreign investors and businesses come as the country is firmly accelerating the push for building a unified national market that is efficient, rules-based, open and encourages fair competition, which means the country will further integrate itself into the global economy and steadily deepen reforms and opening-up, analysts said.

Ye Yindan, a researcher at the Bank of China Research Institute, said that China aims to set up a unified market system, and bring an end to local protectionism, market segmentation and impediments restricting economic circulation as well as facilitate the smooth flow of goods, factors and resources.

> "Such a unified market will help foreign companies establish a unified system for production, operation and sales in China and reduce their costs resulting from differences in rules between regions, thus greatly enhancing the confidence of foreign investors."
>
> YE YINDAN

"Such a unified market will help foreign companies establish a unified system for production, operation and sales in China and reduce their costs resulting from differences in rules between regions, thus greatly enhancing the confidence of foreign investors," Ye said.

Cui Weijie, deputy director of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, spoke highly of China's ongoing efforts on shortening negative lists for market entry and building a unified national market, saying those moves help create a modern market system that is open, transparent and encourages fair competition and benefits all market players.

Global executives hailed China's intensified efforts for optimizing the business environment, expressing strong optimism and confidence in the resilience of the Chinese economy.

"China is a market that cannot be ignored. It cannot be missed as an outlet for most companies," said Denis Depoux, global managing director of consultancy Roland Berger.

"China is one of the leading supply chains in the global market," said Samson Khaou, executive vice-president of Dassault Systemes Asia-Pacific. "We believe that the growth of China will be sourced by domestic demand as well as global demand."

— OUYANG SHIJIA

California companies upbeat on China

Businesses in California are faring well in the Chinese market thanks to continuing engagement and a sound relationship between the two sides.

"I just came back from the Canton Fair. We have been buying auto parts from Chinese suppliers and we wanted to meet more suppliers," Jaspreet Singh, executive vice-president of KalPartz, a company in Fontana, said at the 2023 China-California Business Forum in Los Angeles late last month.

Singh booked a booth at the forum in the hope of meeting potential business partners from China. He said his company established relationships with Chinese partners during the pandemic, and they introduced him to more suppliers in China.

Singh said his business has not suffered from geopolitical tensions. "It's all about business," he said. "We have maintained a very good relationship."

He was also pleased with his experience at the Canton Fair and said he planned to attend the fair again.

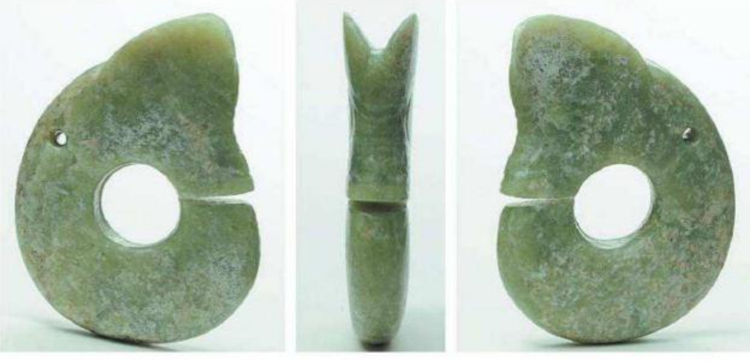
The China-California Business Forum was created in 2016 to promote trade and investment cooperation between California and Chinese provinces.

Emily Desai, deputy director of international affairs and trade at Go-Biz, gave the audience an example of the cooperation — a program led by her office to support 12 California companies, all small businesses, to participate in the Greater China clean beauty products showcase this February.

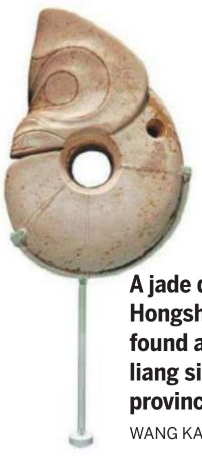
"China is currently the second largest cosmetics market in the world, and the top destination for U.S. cosmetics exports.

SEE **OUTLOOK,** PAGE 2

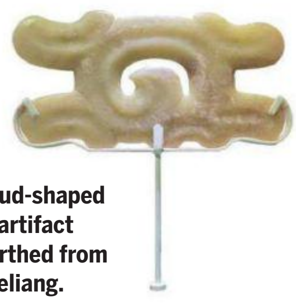
OUT OF THE MISTS OF TIME



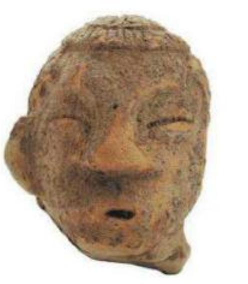
A dragon-shaped jade item unearthed from Banlashan site in Liaoning province. The site is one of the major archaeological findings of the Neolithic Hongshan Culture, which is renowned for its exquisite jade.
PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A jade dragon of Hongshan Culture found at the Niuheliang site in Liaoning province. PHOTOS BY WANG KAIHAO / CHINA DAILY



A cloud-shaped jade artifact unearthed from Niuheliang.



A pottery sculpture found at Banlashan.

A large Hongshan settlement site has been discovered in Shangchaoyanggou village, only 4 miles from the Niuheliang archaeological site in Chaoyang city, Northeast China's Liaoning province, according to the latest research by the Liaoning Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology.

It marks the first time a large residential site of Hongshan Culture has been found near the Niuheliang sacred burial site.

After archaeological excavation of an area of 29.7 acres, 27 dwelling sites have been discovered.

In the 1930s, a brilliant Neolithic culture renowned for its exquisite jade was discovered during the excavation of a site by a hill named Hongshan (meaning "the red mountain" due to the color of its rocks) in Chifeng city, Inner Mongolia autonomous region. In 1954, it was formally named Hongshan Culture. Other Hongshan Culture sites have been discovered in parts of today's Inner Mongolia, as well as Liaoning and Hebei provinces.

The discovery of the Niuheliang burial site in 1983 was a milestone in the study of Hongshan Culture.

After a life-size head sculpture of a goddess was excavated at the site, which dates back 5,000 to 5,500 years, a large center of religious belief and ceremony has gradually been revealed by the shovels of archaeologists.

"Hongshan Culture, represented by the Niuheliang site, relates to the critical period 5,000 years ago in China's prehistory," said Bai Baoyu, director of the Liaoning institute. "It is also a key to trace the origin of Chinese culture and civilization."

Liaoning is the core area of Hongshan Culture and the key area of related research.

In June 1921, Johan Gunnar Andersson, an archaeologist from Sweden, and his Chinese colleagues first discovered the remains of Hongshan Culture when he cleaned the site of Shaguotun Cave in Jinxi county (now Huludao city in Liaoning).

In the following years, archaeologists carried out continuous work on sites and cemeteries, such as Dongshanzui, Hutougou, Niuheliang and Banlashan.

In 2017, archaeologists launched an investigation of Hongshan Culture. Data from the Liaoning Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology show that, as of last year, the number of Hongshan sites and cemeteries in the province had increased from the initial 90 to more than 500.

Ma'anqiaoshan archaeological site, located in Jianping county of Chaoyang, is an example. The site is located on a hillside near the Laoha River in Shitaigou village and includes living, sacrificial and burial areas.

After examination of human bones discovered at the site, archaeologists found that they mainly ate grains.

Combined with the unearthed agricultural tools, it shows that the Hongshan people started to settle down and rely on agriculture 6,400 years ago, breaking the previous belief that they were predominantly hunter-gatherers.

"Hongshan Culture has been included as a national archaeological project," said Bai. "The next step of our work is to investigate and excavate key sites both inside and outside the Niuheliang site to seek more evidence of the connection between the sites and confirm the construction layout of the Niuheliang site.

"Moreover, we plan to establish a database of the natural environment and economic life at that time to accumulate more information for the research of Hongshan Culture," he said.

— ZHOU HUIYING AND WU YONG

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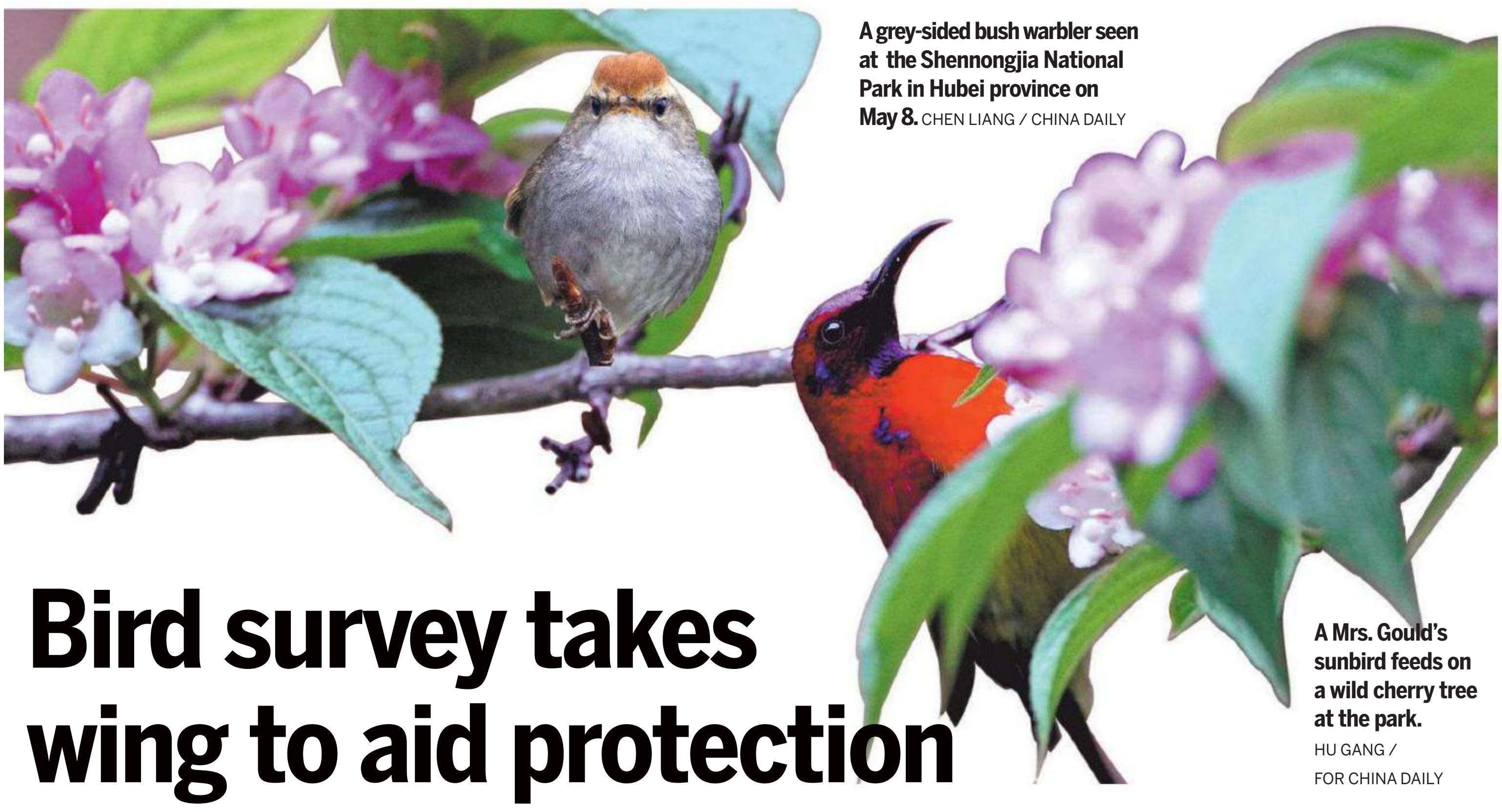
SOCIETY



A grey-sided bush warbler seen at the Shennongjia National Park in Hubei province on May 8. CHEN LIANG / CHINA DAILY

A Mrs. Gould's sunbird feeds on a wild cherry tree at the park. HU GANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Bird survey takes wing to aid protection

The only reason Zhong Jia could participate in a comprehensive bird survey launched recently at the Shennongjia National Park, Hubei province, is that she is a member of the Rosefinch Center, she said.

Fortunately, the nonprofit, which is dedicated to the promotion of bird-watching and conservation, is the project's contractor, she added.

The ideal survey participant should be an experienced bird-watcher, who is adept at identifying the different bird calls and songs while walking and driving, she said.

"I'm not sensitive to bird noises, too old to walk long distances on mountain paths and I can't drive. So I am barely qualified," she added.

She was being modest. The 70-year-old retired newspaper editor and former environmental reporter was one of the founders of the center and also of the country's first group of bird-watchers.

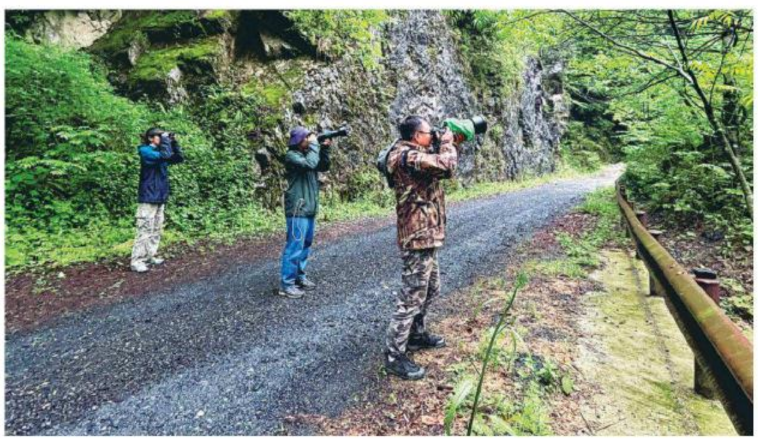
During her nearly 30 years of bird-watching and participation in numerous surveys, she has gained extensive knowledge of China's avian wildlife.

However, her modesty did reveal the center's determination to run a successful project.

In fact, the survey launched last month was the second of 12 such activities in a large-scale, three-year monitoring project organized by the Shennongjia administration to track the status and trends of birds in the park.

As one of the project's main designers, the center's secretary-general Lei Jinyu will manage it over the next three years. "For us, it's a milestone and breakthrough. We can't afford to fail," he said.

Speaking at the national park's headquarters in Muyu town, the administrative seat of the Shennongjia forest area, a county-level area in Hubei, Yu Huiliang, deputy director of the park administration's science academy, said the monitoring project is just one of 15 parts of a comprehensive survey of the park's natural resources.



Wei Ming, Hu Gang and Chen Shiqiao take photos of birds during a survey at the park on May 7. CHEN LIANG / CHINA DAILY

According to Yu, Shennongjia became one of 10 pilot national parks in 2016 after the central government decided to protect its ecosystem more efficiently.

It has completed its pilot period and has applied for official status — a process that will take several years — so a comprehensive survey of resources is of vital importance to the application, Yu said.

In August 2021, the Hubei government merged four nature reserves in four counties with the park, expanding its total area to 930 square miles.

"The comprehensive survey will cover all the newly added reserves and be conducted in Shennongjia and four other counties," Yu said.

The program, which has a budget of nearly 30 million yuan ($4.2 million), was officially launched in March. It is being conducted by 13 research institutes and universities inside and outside Hubei.

"The Rosefinch Center is the only NGO involved," Yu said, adding that amateur bird watchers are playing an increasingly important role in related activities nationwide.

They have helped add many new species to the national checklist, and their records of sightings are commonly used in scientific research, according to Yu.

He said the center runs the country's most popular online system for submitting bird records and has published a monthly bird-watching magazine for many years.

Since 2019, the Shennongjia forest area has held four bird-watching festivals.

"Over the years, the center's members have helped us design the festival, acted as judges and managed the online records of bird-race participants," Yu said. "Their professionalism has left us with a very positive impression."

As a result, the national park chose the center as one of the contractors for the survey. Lei said the decision illustrates the openness and tolerance of the national parks, a new system of conservation.

"It's a priceless opportunity for a small organization like us," said Lei, an author and compiler of several books about bird-watching, including *Methods for Bird Surveys*.

"That's why we have tried to put it into the best hands we can find."

In addition to Zhong, Lei and Wei Ming, head of the center's Kunming office, the five other participants of the survey, which ran from May 7 to May 11 — Hu Gang, Chen Shiqiao, Yao Yi, Li Mingpu and Li Yunfei — are all experienced birders.

"To cover more areas, we surveyed in two groups," Lei said. "In every survey, our aim is the same — to collect as much solid and comprehensive data as possible."

Zhong, Wei, Hu and Chen were in Group A. Lei, Yao and the Lis were in Group B.

On a map of the national park, Lei and his colleagues divided the facility into about 40 squares, each representing a different geographical area.

They visited about 20 units which were accessible by road and chose a few 0.6- or 1.2-mile-long sections of road to walk along while counting birds on the way. The sections are "line transects", or sample areas, which they will visit often during the next three years to count bird numbers and collect data for the monitoring program, Lei said.

They will also stand at several specific locations and record all the birds seen and heard within a given time. These locations are regarded as sample points.

During the survey, they covered dozens of transect lines and sample points, and recorded 24 species under levels one and two State protection. They included a golden eagle, a Bonelli's eagle, a golden pheasant, a Temminck's tragopan and a spotted laughingthrush.

"We have set up about 70 line transects and 30 sample points on the park map," Lei said. "Scattered across the national park and at a wide range of altitudes, they represent various habitats. By visiting them several times in different seasons over the three years, we hope to gain a comprehensive understanding of the birds' status in the park."

— CHEN LIANG

Volunteers guide runners in overcoming adversity

Yao Taotao (front left) is accompanied by two volunteers while running at the Beijing Olympic Forest Park. WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

Every Thursday and Sunday morning, a group of runners with impaired vision or hearing sets off from a rest area near the south gate of the Beijing Olympic Forest Park.

The area, one of several established at the park last year, sits beside the running and walking track, and serves as a warm-up base for the runners, who are accompanied by volunteers as they aim to improve their fitness levels.

At 8 a.m. on a sunny morning last month, Yao Taotao, 38, who has retinitis pigmentosa — a chronic hereditary eye disease — and has been legally blind since he was 1, did some stretches before taking to the track. He followed the movements of two volunteers, who act as regular trainers.

The three runners set an impressive pace, completing the 3-mile lap of the southern part of the park within 40 minutes.

Yao and one of the volunteers were connected by a hemp rope as they ran at the same pace. They rarely spoke — the only sounds being the occasional summer breeze and the runners' breathing and footsteps.

"As I can no longer see, I place all my trust in the volunteers when I run," said Yao, who works at a blind massage parlor in Haidian district of Beijing.

Yao was one of 15 people with impaired vision or hearing who ran at the Olympic Forest Park on the day, who were accompanied by more than 30 volunteers.

This activity, which has been staged for the past five years, is organized by the Beijing branch of Running in the Dark, a charity running group formed in October 2019.

The founder and organizer of the group's branch in the Chinese capital is He Xiaoyun, 52, a Beijing native. She and about five regular volunteers hold charity runs at the Olympic Forest Park on Thursdays and Sundays at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.

About 1,600 volunteers have joined the Beijing branch, ranging in age from 5 to 74, and assisting more than 400 visually impaired and hearing impaired runners.

Volunteers accompanying the athletes walk or run varying distances, either walking for 2 miles, or running for 3 miles, 6 miles or 9 miles.

Experienced volunteers offer additional support by holding visually impaired participants' hands or arms.

Ding Hua, 47, has worked as a volunteer for the charity group for about two and a half years. She learned about Running in the Dark when she met with a visually impaired runner from the group on the Beijing subway last year.

She said she enjoys being part of the charity group and running with visually impaired people because everyone is willing to communicate and connect with each other.

Many of the runners she accompanied reached the finishing line without making any stops.

"This gives me a sense of achievement, which is hard to find elsewhere in my daily life, as I am usually busy looking after my child and doing housework," she said.

Running can be enjoyable, but it is difficult to share enthusiasm for the sport with others, Ding said.

"That's where companionship comes in. By sharing the positive energy, excitement and upbeat attitude that comes from running and other forms of exercise, you help those who are visually impaired, or who are experiencing negative emotions," she said.

— XIN WEN

Outlook: State is top business partner

From page 1

"It is estimated that the Chinese beauty and personal care market will be worth more than $78 billion by 2025," Desai said.

"Sophisticated consumers, and increasing awareness of things like pollution on skin are driving more Chinese consumers and shoppers to opt for natural and organic skin care products. In California, companies have their products and services to deliver."

She said the participating companies, through the program, met with more than 320 Chinese distributors and buyers while looking to enter the market.

"These types of programs are very important. They deepen our trade ties, particularly for our small businesses. They provide new revenue and business opportunities as companies look to expand overseas," Desai said.

Despite some difficulties and challenges, economic cooperation remains one of the strongest foundations underpinning China-U.S. relations, said Chinese Consul General in Los Angeles Guo Shaochun.

> "They (programs with China) provide new revenue and business opportunities as companies look to expand overseas."
> EMILY DESAI

Last year, bilateral trade reached a record high of $760 billion. U.S. agricultural exports to China also hit a new record of $40.9 billion, he said.

"California leads all the other states of America in economic cooperation with China and it's the top state in attracting Chinese investment, while China stays California's largest trading partner," Guo said.

"There are broad prospects for cooperation between us in agriculture, trade, cultural and entertainment industries, logistics and transportation, clean energy and many other sectors."

California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis agreed, calling the trade relationship between California and China "crucial".

She said that California presents "important business opportunities" in climate change and environmental protection.

"We encourage foreign investment in all aspects of combating climate change. We have companies from around the world, especially from China, both taking part in the incredible green wave happening in our state."

— LIA ZHU

CONTACT US

China Daily
15 Huixin Dongjie, Chaoyang,
Beijing, China 100029
+86 (0) 10 64918366
chinawatch@chinadaily.com.cn
Advertising:
+86 (0) 10 64918631;
ads@chinadaily.com.cn
Website: www.chinadaily.com.cn
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1500 Broadway, Suite 2800,
New York, NY 10036
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BEIJING SPECIAL

中关村论坛
2023 ZGC FORUM

The 2023 Zhongguancun Forum is held in Beijing in late May. ZHANG WEI / CHINA DAILY

Forum brings together global tech innovators

The 2023 Zhongguancun Forum was held in Beijing in late May with the theme of "Open Cooperation for a Shared Future". The six-day event featured more than 150 activities including conferences, exhibitions, announcements of research developments, technology trading and competitions in cutting-edge fields.

The forum's 55 parallel sessions brought together experts and innovators to discuss a diverse range of topics in frontier realms, such as artificial intelligence, life sciences and clean energy, as well as hot topics including data governance, women in scientific and technological innovation and digital sports.

This year's forum highlighted its characteristics as a State-level, cutting-edge and international event, Yu Yingjie, vice-mayor of Beijing, said at a news conference ahead of the event.

Three new hosts were added this year: the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council. Of the 55 parallel sessions, 25 were hosted or co-hosted by national ministries or commissions, accounting for 45% of the total.

The forum focused on cutting-edge fields like AI, quantum science and brain-computer interfaces. It explored trends in sci-tech innovation, showcased the latest achievements and hosted roadshows to identify disruptive technologies that will shape the future of sci-tech innovation and industrial development.

Guests from more than 80 countries and regions attended the forum, with more than 40% of the nearly 120 keynote speakers hailing from foreign countries, Yu said.

Ten major sci-tech achievements were released at the opening of the forum on May 25. They included an evaluation report on the construction of Beijing into an international sci-tech innovation center, progress and achievements in Zhongguancun's pioneering reforms, new-generation 256-core blockchain dedicated acceleration chips, and a new-generation quantum computing cloud platform.

Wu Zhaohui, vice-minister of science and technology, said 13 parallel sessions were co-hosted by international organizations. Notably, there was an increase in the number of representatives from international companies and organizations, as well as world-renowned politicians, industry experts, scholars and researchers attending the forum.

At the 2023 Invest Beijing Global Summit on May 26, which was for the first time held during the Zhongguancun Forum, 39 major projects were signed, involving a combined value of 60.8 billion yuan ($8.63 billion).

Wu said that the Zhongguancun Forum aims to develop into an international summit for science and technology exchanges, where major policies can be promoted, high-end talents can congregate and communicate, important achievements can be showcased and cutting-edge ideas can be exchanged.

As an essential part of the forum, the 2023 ZGC International Technology Trade Fair featured significant international involvement. According to Yu, the fair scheduled 26 activities, with over 7,000 technological achievements and innovation projects from 40 countries and regions seeking collaboration.

Established in 2020, the ZGC International Technology Trade Fair aims to promote global technology commercialization and project implementation.

"The Zhongguancun Forum serves as a signal amplifier, allowing our boron neutron capture therapy technology to gain attention from various sectors of society," said Ma Chuangxin, general manager of Guangdong province-based high-tech company Casbnct, who expressed his appreciation for the benefits of continuous participation in the fair.

This year's forum featured a conference on technology transfer and development for world-class colleges and universities. Representatives from prestigious institutions such as Tsinghua University, Peking University, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the University of Oxford were among the invited attendees.

The Zhongguancun Forum has held 13 sessions since its inception in 2007. According to Wu, Zhongguancun was the first national demonstration zone for independent innovation and has become a symbol of China's innovation-driven development.

The forum is an important platform for China's participation in global sci-tech innovation and governance. It has contributed significantly to the construction of the Beijing International Center for Science and Technology Innovation, high-quality development and closer sci-tech cooperation, Wu noted.

— HU YUYAN

Convention fosters development of sci-fi sector

The 2023 China Science Fiction Convention held at the Shougang Industrial Park in western Beijing's Shijingshan district highlighted about 40 activities including exhibitions, forums and performances.

Organized by the China Association for Science and Technology and the Beijing government, this year's event ran through to June 4. It was the first time that the convention was included as part of the Zhongguancun Forum.

The 2023 event emphasized the integrated development of science fiction and scientific technologies, said Pang Xiaodong, deputy director of the popular science department at CAST. Meanwhile, it was aimed at fostering the creation of sci-fi works and encouraging more people to learn about and participate in the science fiction industry, Pang added.

The event's opening ceremony, held on May 29, featured a virtual host named Huan Huan, which was supported by augmented reality and hologram technologies.

The Shougang Industrial Park in Beijing serves as the venue of the 2023 China Science Fiction Convention. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

From May 29 to June 4, a science fiction exhibition took place in the Zhongguancun Science Fiction Industry Innovation Center, with more than 46 enterprises in the industry showcasing their latest products and technologies.

The exhibition offered the public a platform to experience cutting-edge technologies such as those related to smart transportation, motion capture and virtual photography, while it helped to enhance cooperation among companies, organizers said.

The convention also consisted of 11 parallel forums, with numerous experts and corporate leaders sharing their insights into industrial trends.

During this year's convention, the Beijing Science Fiction Carnival was held including a science fiction film festival, an award ceremony and a conference on product launches.

A highlight of the film festival was the "sci-fi movie night", which promoted some science fiction movies. The domestic streaming site Tencent Video also screened 30 blockbuster sci-fi movies from home and abroad.

Launched in 2016, the China Science Fiction Convention has been held in Shijingshan district for three years.

At the 2020 session of the event, CAST and the municipal government signed an agreement to establish China's first sci-fi industrial complex in the Shougang Industrial Park.

As a result, the Zhongguancun Science Fiction Industry Innovation Center, an incubator for sci-fi companies, started operations in the park in August 2022. So far, 66 enterprises have made a presence in the center.

The district has also made sustained efforts to advance the application of scientific technologies and build application scenarios for the sci-fi industry. An array of demonstration projects have been built in the park, such as the Fahai Temple Mural Digital Art Museum, and the SoReal Metaverse Park, which includes a museum based on virtual reality technologies, an immersive theater and many interactive activities.

— YUAN SHENGGAO

Capital playing key role as beacon for intl talents

Beijing has accelerated its integration into the world's innovation system over the past decade, becoming a hub of international cutting-edge sci-tech innovation and an important force in driving the global industrial revolution, local officials said.

The Chinese capital has also achieved the leap from a national scientific and technological innovation center into a key hub of global sci-tech innovation.

The city has focused on core technologies to carry out a number of major projects in fields such as integrated circuits, new materials and energy science, in a bid to serve as an originator of technological innovation in emerging industries.

It has built three national laboratories in the Zhongguancun area and the districts of Changping and Huairou, centering on information, life science and energy sectors, to support the development of national research institutions, high-level research universities and leading tech enterprises.

This first-class environment for innovations has continuously gathered top overseas talents. Over the past 10 years, the number of returnees and foreign employees in Beijing has increased at an average annual rate of 12%. In 2022, it had 339 highly cited researchers and academics, accounting for 4.7% of the world's total.

According to a news conference of the 2023 Zhongguancun Forum held on May 15, about 293 sci-tech companies were founded daily in Beijing last year, 3.8 times that of in 2012.

That year, Beijing surpassed London for the first time to rank third globally in innovation, according to the Global Innovation Hubs Index 2022 released by Springer Nature Group and the Center for Industrial Development and Environmental Governance at Tsinghua University.

Guided by an action plan issued in 2021, Beijing will basically finish the construction of the sci-tech innovation center by 2025. By 2035, the innovation center is to lead the world in innovation, competitiveness and influence, and support China to build a scientific and technological powerhouse.

Beijing has made several breakthroughs in cutting-edge technological fields. They include Majorana zero mode, one of the most exotic phenomena in condensed matter physics; innovative gene-editing techniques; a brain-inspired Tianjic chip; the world's first prototype machine of quantum direct communication; a long-life superconducting qubit chip; and Chang'an Chain, the first independent and controllable blockchain software and hardware technology system in China.

Major sci-tech achievements are partly attributed to the innovation and reform of related systems and mechanisms.

In 2020, Beijing started implementing a regulation to promote the transformation of sci-tech achievements, as opposed to a rigid system where the ownership and income of the achievements could only be owned by the research institutions. It has greatly stimulated the innovation enthusiasm of researchers, experts said.

Also, the city has seen faster gathering of global innovation resources. For instance, the Zhongguancun Forum has become a premier event to facilitate dialogue in science and technology between China and the rest of the world.

Three top international journals — Nature, Science and Cell — have held regular academic exchange activities in Beijing; and RELX, owner of the medical journal The Lancet, has conducted strategic cooperation with the city.

Beijing has been playing an increasingly important role in the global innovation network, said Niels Peter Thomas, president of Springer Nature Group's operations in China. He expects more Chinese cities to develop into international sci-tech innovation centers in the future.

— HAO NAN

A satellite model from a Beijing unicorn business is displayed.
PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Beijing unicorns galloping ahead in worldwide growth

With more than 100 unicorn businesses, Beijing is one of the most prominent forces to emerge in the global innovation landscape.

A unicorn business refers to a privately held startup company that was founded less than 10 years ago yet whose value is considered to surpass $1 billion. Such businesses are generally in sunrise industries and thus embrace significant growth potential, according to Beijing Daily.

The past decade has witnessed a surge of unicorns in Beijing. In 2022, the city was home to 102 unicorn companies, putting Beijing at the forefront of the world in terms of unicorn quantity and valuation, local media reported.

The new generation of unicorns is rising rapidly in Beijing and hard-tech unicorns account for nearly half of the city's total, said Xu Jian, an official at the Beijing Science and Technology Commission and the Administrative Commission of Zhongguancun Science Park.

In recent years, a group of young unicorns established no more than five years ago have emerged in Beijing in such fields as artificial intelligence-assisted drug development, AI chips, industrial internet, and commercial space, Xu added.

In Beijing, an average of 6.5 companies receive investments every day. In 2022, early-stage investments, venture capital or private equity investments worth 161.6 billion yuan ($22.9 billion) went to Beijing-based unicorn enterprises, accounting for 17.8% of the country's total and taking the lead in major Chinese cities for years. To date, the 102 unicorns in Beijing have secured accumulative financing worth more than 400 billion yuan from 845 funds.

By establishing government-led funds such as the Science and Technology Innovation Fund, Beijing encourages non-governmental capital to flow to early-stage and small-scale startups, strengthens the supply of patient capital, and supports the cultivation of unicorn companies.

— YUAN SHENGGAO

LIFE

Ancient strings can do magical things

When Wu Wenguang, a virtuoso performer of the *guqin,* the seven-stringed Chinese zither, talks about its history, he likes to quote a folktale about the legendary friendship between a musician and his biggest admirer.

During the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC) there was a musician named Yu Boya who lived alone in a forest where he played the *guqin*. A passing woodcutter named Zhong Ziqi was intrigued by the sounds and stopped to listen. Yu's playing conjured up various pictures in Zhong's mind such as clouds flowing and waterfalls plunging. They became good friends. After many years, when the woodcutter died, Yu decided to smash his instrument and never to play again because he knew that he would never again have someone like Zhong so intuitively to understand his music.

"Such was the connection between performing and listening, which is linked by the *guqin*, an instrument that is endowed with the power to communicate the deepest feelings," said Wu, 78. "When we talk about traditional Chinese culture, the *gu-qin*, which was played by many literati and other notables, is definitely at the core of this culture."

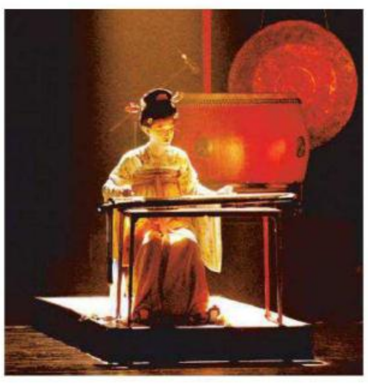
Indeed, the *guqin*, the favored instrument of Confucius, was an essential musical instrument of ancient China's educated elite. It was added to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2008.

"The Chinese zither has existed for more than 3,000 years and represents China's foremost solo musical instrument tradition," the UNESCO website says. "Described in early literary sources and corroborated by archaeological finds, this ancient instrument is inseparable from Chinese intellectual history."

Wu, born in Changshu, Jiangsu province, learned to play the *guqin* with his father, Wu Jinglue, who was also a *guqin* master and founded the *guqin* music school of the Wu family.

Wu Wenguang graduated from the China Conservatory of Music and the Chinese National Academy of Arts in Beijing before studying musicology at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, with a full scholarship from 1985 to 1990. Since returning to China Wu Wenguang has taught at the China Conservatory of Music.

"My father, once a member of a *guqin* troupe in Shanghai, devoted his life to the instrument, which naturally influenced me," Wu Wenguang said. "I am the second generation of my family keeping the tradition of playing and promoting the instrument, and my daughter is the third generation."



From top: Performers in a *guqin* studio use modern means to popularize the ancient zither, as well as other traditional musical instruments, among a younger audience. Above: Wu Wenguang, a *guqin* master. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY AND BY WANG JING / CHINA DAILY

The many *guqin* schools in the country keep the ancient instrument alive, he said.

One of the key factors of the revival of the instrument is tablature. According to Wu Wenguang, *guqin* music is traditionally written in abbreviated characters that indicate how to use the hands and interact with the seven strings. This is unlike anything in Western music. In *guqin* music there is no obvious rhythmic indication, which is like poetry. We are given the words, but there are no instructions on how fast or slow to read the poem.

"There are about 3,000 ancient songs in the *guqin* repertoire, and different performers can have different interpretations," said Wu Wenguang, who with his father has re-created more than 100 ancient scores. For example, they have recovered all of the scores collected in a *guqin* handbook, titled *Shenqi Mipu* ("marvelous secret music score"), which included 64 music pieces and was compiled by Zhu Quan, one of the sons of Zhu Yuanzhang, founder of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

In addition to ancient *guqin* songs, Wu Wenguang has also adapted contemporary music works into his performances, which has helped expand the repertoire.

Wu Wenguang's daughter Wu Ye is carrying on the family tradition of playing the instrument and is keen on composing new music for it.

"*Guqin* playing was developed as an elite art form, and now it has gained popularity among young people with a new wave of interest in the country's traditional culture and government efforts to promote this," she said.

Since 2020 she has initiated and organized a series of *guqin* concerts. The concerts, with different themes, have appealed to a young audience. The latest concert was held in Beijing on May 20.

Huang Mei, one of Wu Wenguang's students, was one of the first musicians in China to gain a PhD in *guqin* music.

"Wu (Wenguang) not only taught me how to play the instrument, but also how to comprehend the spirit behind it, especially what it symbolizes in traditional Chinese culture," Huang, 44, said.

"I've noticed that many young people enjoy *guqin* nowadays. They find they can escape from their daily lives temporarily by playing or listening to *guqin* music, which makes them feel calm."

— CHEN NAN

Online
Watch the video by scanning the code.

Dunhuang and the bluegrass connection

Kyle Dillingham, an Oklahoman fiddling maestro, has always taken pride in being a U.S. musician who brought bluegrass music to the city of Dunhuang in Gansu province, a meeting point of the East and the West for centuries.

What awed him most was that after centuries of cultural exchanges there are still things to share and learn in a part of the world where his fiddle has made as strong a connection with Chinese audiences as it does in the United States.

It happened on a trip in 2017 when Dillingham brought his Horseshoe Road band to represent Oklahoma and the U.S. at the second Silk Road International Cultural Expo in Dunhuang, with additional concerts in Qingyang, another city in Gansu, and in Xi'an, capital of neighboring Shaanxi province.

Dunhuang is home to the millennia-old Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site that showcases the cultural integration and mutual learning among different civilizations along the ancient Silk Road.

"I remember talking to the president of the CMA (Country Music Association) and just expressing how proud I was to represent traditional American music, country music and bluegrass for the very first time, adding to the thousands of years of interaction and cultural exchanges from the East and the West in that city," Dillingham said.

After traveling to China 13 times and a hiatus of three years due to the pandemic, Dillingham said he cannot wait to go back to Gansu, the sister province of Oklahoma. The sistership was started in 1985 by then governor George Nigh and nurtured through musical diplomacy.

Dillingham picked up a violin when he was 9 years old and, when he was 17, featured twice in the Grand Ole Opry, the definitive live country music showcase in Nashville, Tennessee, where he made his debut in July 2019 on a bill with several country stars, including the Oak Ridge Boys.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in instrumental music performance he has fiddled his way to more than 40 countries, gaining the title Oklahoma's Musical Ambassador.

His connection with Gansu dates back to 2015, when he was invited to provide entertainment to a delegation from the province's office of foreign affairs, who were visiting Oklahoma to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the relationship between the state and Gansu.

He started with traditional American fiddling, drawing "lots of applause but not a strong connection". Then he started playing a Chinese song, *The Girl From Dabancheng*, which caught the delegation off guard.

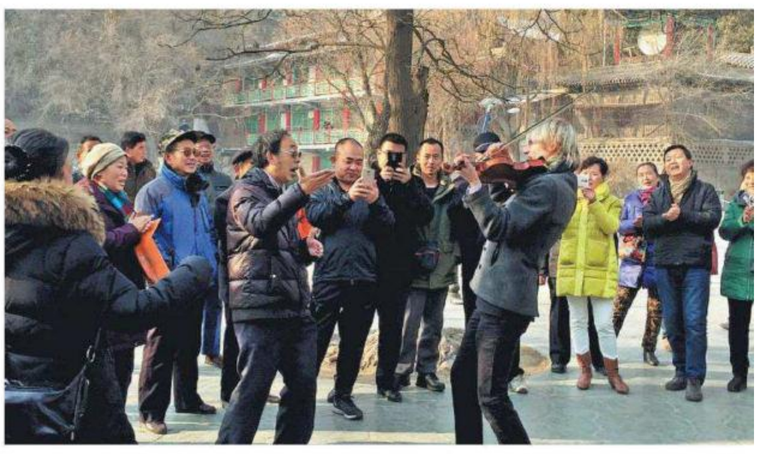
"Suddenly they all began to sing along with my violin, and they were clapping and singing. When it finished, everybody stood up and started really talking and engaging. It was just a fantastic moment."

It was a performance that secured him an invitation to perform at a New Year's Eve concert with the Lanzhou Symphony Orchestra in Lanzhou, capital of Gansu. He was invited back for the first Silk Road International Cultural Expo the following year.

Dillingham said he believes the sistership forged in 1985 is "a match made in heaven", Gansu and Oklahoma being 7,000 miles apart.

Some consider Oklahoma a "flyover state" for travelers, just as Gansu has not been a priority destination for many tourists. Both places have a pace of life that is a little slower and more relaxed, Dillingham said.

In addition, Gansu has many ethnic groups, and Oklahoma has at least 70 Native American tribes.



Kyle Dillingham gives an impromptu performance in front of the Oklahoma-Gansu friendship tree at the Five Springs Mountain Park in the provincial capital Lanzhou. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

In 2019 Dillingham and his team conducted their Silk Road and the Fiddle Sister State Tour through China, giving concerts along the ancient Silk Road in the cities of Qingyang, Lanzhou, Tianshui and Baiyin.

"Without the Silk Road you would not have the traditional American fiddle culture that I have grown to love," Dillingham said, noting that the origins of the violin can be traced back to Central Asia.

It was along the Silk Road that this bowed, stringed instrument made its way to the Arabian Peninsula, on to the Mediterranean and into Europe, to Italy where, hundreds of years later, it eventually evolved into the violin, which was exported to every continent, including North America, Dillingham said.

"There's a thread that connects us all, and there are nuances, but in the end what we find is that all the people will connect and share so many things they have in common, and we can learn about various traditions and cultures."

Dillingham said he hopes cultural exchanges between China and the U.S. will help improve relations between the two countries.

"My hope is that it does help, and I think that, in a time like this, especially when politically there are tensions, it's a moment where cultural exchanges and musical diplomacy can really shine."

—ZHAO HUANXIN

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TOP LAW FIRMS

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TOP 100 LAW FIRMS

Rank by Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County

L.A. Times B2B Publishing is proud to present "Top Law Firms," a list of the 100 leading law firms in Los Angeles County. The list is ranked by the number of attorneys in Los Angeles County offices.

To compile the list, B2B Publishing surveyed local, regional and national law firms and asked them to provide information about the number of attorneys and practice groups in their local offices. Participation was voluntary. There were no fees attached. Some firms may have qualified for the list, but declined to provide information.

In an effort to provide context about the type of work performed by these firms, each participant was asked to provide a breakdown of their total attorney headcount into the four most common practice group areas in L.A. County: corporate, litigation, real estate, and labor and employment. Some firms chose not to provide this breakdown by practice group and were not featured in the subsequent lists.

These 100 leading law firms employ 6,917 local attorneys and more than 11,000 total local employees. The list is ranked by total number of attorneys in L.A. County offices. In case of a tie, firms are ranked by the number of local partners and then alphabetically. All efforts were made to ensure the accuracy of the list, but errors and omissions are possible due to the constantly shifting nature of the industry.

To view these lists online, visit *latimes.com/b2b/toplawfirms*

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Sales Department
Helya Askari
Executive Director of Sales
helya.askari@latimes.com

Marketing & Contributing Writers
David Nusbaum
B2B Research Consultant

Helen Chang
Senior Project Manager

Alan LaGuardia
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1 Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

333 S. Hope St. 43rd Floor, L.A. 90071
1901 Avenue of the Stars Suite 1600, L.A. 90067
sheppardmullin.com

Year Established 1927

Managing Partner(s)

Polly Towill

Olivier Theard

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 296
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County 98
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 16

2 Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

333 S. Grand Ave., L.A. 90071
2029 Century Park East Suite 4000, L.A. 90067
gibsondunn.com

Year Established 1890

Managing Partner(s)

Candice Choh

Kahn A. Scolnick

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 295
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County 84
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 20

3 Latham & Watkins LLP

355 S. Grand Ave., L.A. 90071
10250 Constellation Blvd. Suite 1100, L.A. 90067
lw.com

Year Established 1934

Managing Partner(s)

Jeff Bjork

Ana O'Brien

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 274
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County 82
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 30

4 Kirkland & Ellis LLP

2049 Century Park East Suite 3700, L.A. 90067
555 S. Flower St. Suite 3700, L.A. 90071
kirkland.com

Year Established 1909

Managing Partner(s)

Damon Fisher

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 190
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County 90
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 19

5 Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP

865 S. Figueroa St. 10th Floor,
Los Angeles 90017
quinnemanuel.com

Year Established 1986

Managing Partner(s)

John Quinn

Christopher Tayback

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 169
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County NA
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 32

6 Seyfarth Shaw LLP

2029 Century Park East Suite 3500, L.A. 90067
601 S. Figueroa St. Suite 3300, L.A. 90017
seyfarth.com

Year Established 1973

Managing Partner(s)

Jonathan L. Brophy

Nicholas Waddles

Dana Treister

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 159
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County 67
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 17

7 Buchalter, A Professional Corp.

1000 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1500,
Los Angeles 90017
buchalter.com

Year Established 1933

Managing Partner(s)

Adam J. Bass

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 141
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County 73
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 11

8 Loeb & Loeb LLP

10100 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 2200,
Los Angeles 90067
loeb.com

Year Established 1909

Managing Partner(s)

Alyse Pelavin

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 139
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County 76
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 8

9 Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

350 S. Grand Ave. 50th Floor,
Los Angeles 90071
mto.com

Year Established 1962

Managing Partner(s)

Hailyn Chen

Malcolm Heinicke

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 137
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County 64
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 3

10 Sidley Austin LLP

555 W. Fifth St. Suite 4000, L.A. 90013
1999 Avenue of the Stars 17th Floor, L.A. 90067
sidley.com

Year Established 1866

Managing Partner(s)

Rollin Ransom

Dan Clivner

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 135
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County NA
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 21

11 Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

865 S. Figueroa St. Suite 2400, L.A. 90017
5870 W. Jefferson Blvd. Suite H, L.A. 90016
dwt.com

Year Established 1944

Managing Partner(s)

Camilo Echavarria

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 130
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County 55
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 11

12 Paul Hastings LLP

515 S. Flower St. 25th Floor, L.A. 90071
1999 Avenue of the Stars 27th Floor, L.A. 90067
paulhastings.com

Year Established 1951

Managing Partner(s)

Cameron W. Fox

David M. Hernand

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County 127
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County 40
Number of Total Offices Firmwide 21

TOP 100 LAW FIRMS | Rank by Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County

13 Goodwin

601 S. Figueroa St. Suite 4100, Los Angeles 90017
520 Broadway Suite 500, Santa Monica 90401

Year Established: 1912

goodwinlaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

Dean Pappas

Matthew Kanny

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	126
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	29
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	16

14 Greenberg Traurig LLP

1840 Century Park East Suite 1900,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established: 1967

gtlaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

Gregory A. Fishman

Barbara A. Jones

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	119
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	56
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	45

15 Cooley LLP

1333 Second St. Suite 400, Santa Monica 90401
355 S. Grand Ave. Suite 900, Los Angeles 90071

Year Established: 1920

cooley.com

Managing Partner(s)

C. Thomas Hopkins

John-Paul Motley

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	119
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	34
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	18

16 Reed Smith LLP

355 S. Grand Ave. Suite 2900, L.A. 90071
1901 Avenue of the Stars Suite 700, L.A. 90067

Year Established: 1877

reedsmith.com

Managing Partner(s)

Amber Finch

Ernie Ocampo

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	113
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	55
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	32

17 DLA Piper

2000 Avenue of the Stars Suite 400 North Tower, L.A. 90067
550 S. Hope St. Suite 200, L.A. 90071

Year Established: 2005

dlapiper.com

Managing Partner(s)

Angela Agrusa

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	111
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	33
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	90

18 Orrick

355 S. Grand Ave. Suite 2700, Los Angeles 90071
631 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2-C, Santa Monica 90401

Year Established: 1863

orrick.com

Managing Partner(s)

David Fuad

Michael Y. Yang

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	110
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	37
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	27

19 Allen Matkins

865 S. Figueroa St. Suite 2800, L.A. 90017
1901 Avenue of the Stars Suite 1800, L.A. 90067

Year Established: 1977

allenmatkins.com

Managing Partner(s)

Spencer B. Kallick

Marissa M. Dennis

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	108
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	55
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	6

20 Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

12800 Center Court Drive Suite 300, Cerritos 90703
201 S. Lake Ave. Suite 300, Pasadena 91101

Year Established: 1979

aalrr.com

Managing Partner(s)

James Baca

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	105
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	60
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	9

21 Greenberg Glusker LLP

2049 Century Park East Suite 2600,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established: 1959

greenbergglusker.com

Managing Partner(s)

Bob Baradaran

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	103
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	75
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	1

22 Littler

2049 Century Park East 5th Floor, L.A. 90067
633 W. Fifth St. 63rd Floor, L.A. 90071

Year Established: 1942

littler.com

Managing Partner(s)

Shannon Boyce

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	91
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	38
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	106

23 Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP

2029 Century Park East Suite 2100,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established: 1968

coxcastle.com

Managing Partner(s)

Edward F. Quigley

Dwayne McKenzie

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	88
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	53
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	3

24 Venable LLP

2049 Century Park East Suite 2300,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established: 1900

venable.com

Managing Partner(s)

Mitchell Evall

Daniel Hoffer

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	85
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	39
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	13

25 Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

624 S. Grand Ave. Suite 2000,
Los Angeles 90017

Year Established: 1954

musickpeeler.com

Managing Partner(s)

R. Joseph De Briyn

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	83
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	64
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	5

26 Manning Kass

801 S. Figueroa St. 15th Floor,
Los Angeles 90017

Year Established: 1994

manningkass.com

Managing Partner(s)

Steven D. Manning

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	80
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	29
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	7

27 Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

2029 Century Park East Suite 3400,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established: 1888

willkie.com

Managing Partner(s)

Alex Weingarten

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	80
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	27
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	13

28 Jones Day

555 S. Flower St. 50th Floor,
Los Angeles 90071

Year Established: 1893

jonesday.com

Managing Partner(s)

David J. DiMeglio

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	79
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	NA
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	40

TOP 100 LAW FIRMS

Rank by Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County

29

Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

1900 Avenue of the Stars 7th Floor,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established
1981

jmbm.com

Managing Partner(s)

Bruce P. Jeffer

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	79
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	52
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	3

30

McDermott Will & Emery

2049 Century Park East Suite 3200,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established
1934

mwe.com

Managing Partner(s)

Maria C. Rodriguez

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	77
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	38
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	22

31

Glaser Weil Fink Howard Avchen & Shapiro LLP

10250 Constellation Blvd. 19th Floor,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established
1988

glaserweil.com

Managing Partner(s)

Peter M. Weil

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	75
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	44
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	4

32

Holland & Knight LLP

400 S. Hope St. 8th Floor, L.A. 90071
1901 Avenue of the Stars Suite 1200, L.A. 90067

Year Established
1968

hklaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

Vivian L. Thoreen

Ariel B. Robinson

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	73
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	34
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	35

33

Pillsbury

725 S. Figueroa St. 36th Floor,
Los Angeles 90017

Year Established
1868

pillsburylaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

Semma Arzapalo

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	71
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	35
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	19

34

Jackson Lewis P.C.

725 S. Figueroa St. Suite 2500,
Los Angeles 90017

Year Established
1958

jacksonlewis.com

Managing Partner(s)

Nicky Jatana

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	71
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	26
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	61

35

Morrison Foerster

707 Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles 90017

Year Established
1883

mofo.com

Managing Partner(s)

Purvi G. Patel

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	71
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	20
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	18

36

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

300 S. Grand Ave. Suite 3400,
Los Angeles 90071

Year Established
1948

skadden.com

Managing Partner(s)

Jason D. Russell

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	70
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	17
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	21

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TOP 100 LAW FIRMS | Rank by Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County

37 Proskauer Rose LLP

2029 Century Park East Suite 2400,
Los Angeles 90067
proskauer.com

Year Established
1875

Managing Partner(s)

Bart Williams

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	68
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	25
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	12

38 Blank Rome LLP

2029 Century Park East 6th Floor,
Los Angeles 90067
blankrome.com

Year Established
1946

Managing Partner(s)

Cheryl Chang

Gregory Bordo

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	67
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	33
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	14

39 King & Spalding LLP

633 W. Fifth St. Suite 1600,
Los Angeles 90071
kslaw.com

Year Established
1885

Managing Partner(s)

Peter Strotz

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	66
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	29
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	23

40 Mayer Brown

333 S. Grand Ave. 47th Floor,
Los Angeles 90071
mayerbrown.com

Year Established
1881

Managing Partner(s)

John Nadolenco

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	65
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	22
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	27

41 ArentFox Schiff

555 W. Fifth St. 48th Floor,
Los Angeles 90013
afslaw.com

Year Established
1942

Managing Partner(s)

Aaron H. Jacoby

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	64
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	28
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	8

42 Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP

10960 Wilshire Blvd. 18th Floor, L.A. 90024
505 N. Brand Blvd. Suite 1100, Glendale 91203
wshblaw.com

Year Established
1997

Managing Partner(s)

Daniel A. Berman

Stewart D. Reid

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	64
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	26
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	34

43 Milbank LLP

2029 Century Park East 33rd Floor,
Los Angeles 90067
milbank.com

Year Established
1866

Managing Partner(s)

Michael O'Hara Duff

Deborah Conrad

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	64
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	14
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	12

44 Polsinelli

2049 Century Park East Suite 2900,
Los Angeles 90067
polsinelli.com

Year Established
1972

Managing Partner(s)

Noel Cohen

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	63
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	29
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	22

45 BakerHostetler

11601 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1400,
Los Angeles 90025
bakerlaw.com

Year Established
1916

Managing Partner(s)

Eric E. Sagerman

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	62
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	32
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	17

46 Nixon Peabody LLP

300 S. Grand Ave. Suite 4100,
Los Angeles 90071
nixonpeabody.com

Year Established
1999

Managing Partner(s)

Sonia Nayak

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	61
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	30
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	15

47 Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP

555 S. Flower St. Suite 2900,
Los Angeles 90071
wilsonelser.com

Year Established
1978

Managing Partner(s)

Ian Stewart

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	61
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	21
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	41

48 Daugherty Lordan LLP

550 S. Hope St. 24th Floor,
Los Angeles 90071
daughertylordan.com

Year Established
2023

Managing Partner(s)

Timothy R. Graves

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	59
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	59
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	11

49 Clark Hill PLC

555 S. Flower St. 24th Floor,
Los Angeles 90071
clarkhill.com

Year Established
2017

Managing Partner(s)

Penny Deihl

Lisa Reimbold

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	58
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	19
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	27

50 Perkins Coie LLP

1888 Century Park East Suite 1700, L.A. 90067
633 W. Fifth St. Suite 5850, L.A. 90071
perkinscoie.com

Year Established
1912

Managing Partner(s)

Jon Daryanani

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	56
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	23
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	20

51 Ogletree Deakins

400 S. Hope St. Suite 1200,
Los Angeles 90071
ogletree.com

Year Established
1977

Managing Partner(s)

Robert Roginson

Lyne Richardson

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	52
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	22
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	55

52 Squire Patton Boggs

555 S. Flower St. 31st Floor,
Los Angeles 90071
squirepattonboggs.com

Year Established
1890

Managing Partner(s)

James L. Hsu

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	52
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	13
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	43

TOP 100 LAW FIRMS | Rank by Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County

53 Nossaman LLP

777 S. Figueroa St. 34th Floor,
Los Angeles 90017
nossaman.com

Managing Partner(s)

David Graeler

Year Established	1942
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	49
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	34
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	9

54 Akerman LLP

601 W. Fifth St. Suite 300,
Los Angeles 90071
akerman.com

Managing Partner(s)

Michael R. Weiss

Year Established	2006
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	49
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	18
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	24

55 Burke, Williams & Sorensen LLP

444 S. Flower St. Suite 2400,
Los Angeles 90071
bwslaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

John J. Welsh

Year Established	1927
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	47
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	28
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	10

56 Fox Rothschild LLP

10250 Constellation Blvd. Suite 900,
Los Angeles 90067
foxrothschild.com

Managing Partner(s)

Darrell D. Miller

Year Established	1907
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	46
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	25
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	29

57 Raines Feldman LLP

1800 Avenue of the Stars 12th Floor,
Los Angeles 90067
raineslaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

Jonathan D. Littrell

Year Established	2006
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	45
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	31
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	3

58 Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks, Lincenberg & Rhow P.C.

1875 Century Park East 23rd Floor,
Los Angeles 90067
birdmarella.com

Managing Partner(s)

Paul S. Chan

Year Established	1981
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	45
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	22
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	1

59 McGuireWoods LLP

1800 Century Park East Eighth Floor, L.A. 90067
355 S. Grand Ave. Suite 4200, L.A. 90071
mcguirewoods.com

Managing Partner(s)

Alice Youngbar

Hamid Namazie

Year Established	2006
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	45
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	17
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	21

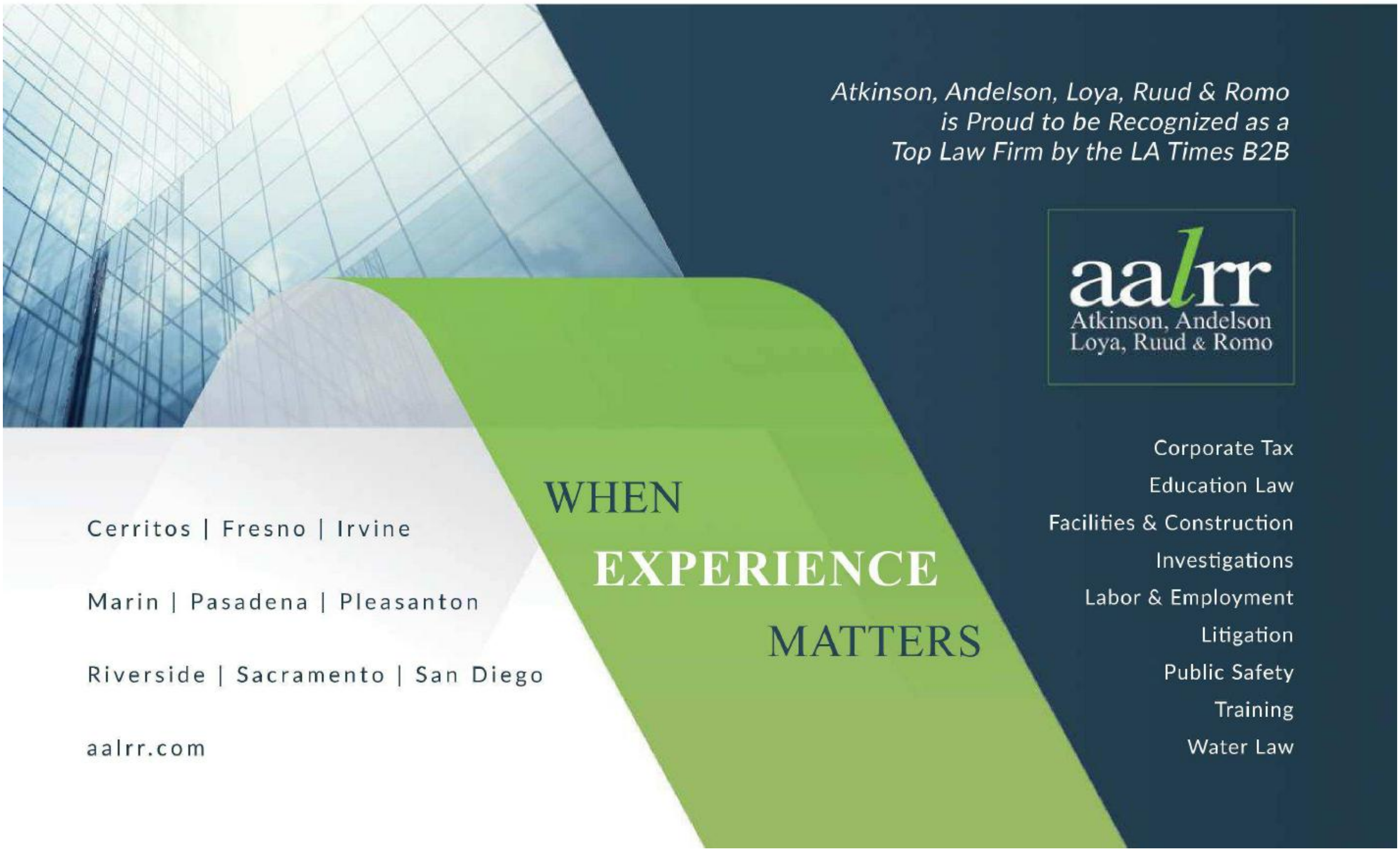
60 Jenner & Block

515 S. Flower St. Suite 3300,
Los Angeles 90071
jenner.com

Managing Partner(s)

Brandon Fox

Year Established	1914
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	45
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	17
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	6



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Atkinson, Andelson
Loya, Ruud & Romo

WHEN EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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Riverside | Sacramento | San Diego

aalrr.com

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Education Law
Facilities & Construction
Investigations
Labor & Employment
Litigation
Public Safety
Training
Water Law

TOP 100 LAW FIRMS | Rank by Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County

61

Lagerlof LLP

155 N. Lake Ave. 11th Floor,
Pasadena 91101

Year Established
1908

lagerlof.com

Managing Partner(s)

Joshua Driskell

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
45

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
16

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
3

62

Hueston Hennigan LLP

523 W. Sixth St. Suite 400,
Los Angeles 90014

Year Established
2015

hueston.com

Managing Partner(s)

Moez Kaba

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
44

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
10

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
3

63

Stubbs Alderton & Markiles LLP

15260 Ventura Blvd. 20th Floor, Sherman Oaks 91324
| 1316 Third St. Promenade Suite 107, Santa Monica 90401

Year Established
2002

stubbsalderton.com

Managing Partner(s)

Scott Alderton

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
43

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
18

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
2

64

Irell & Manella LLP

1800 Avenue of the Stars Suite 900,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established
1941

irell.com

Managing Partner(s)

Ben Hattenbach

Lisa Glasser

Keith Orso

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
43

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
18

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
3

65

Arnold & Porter

777 S. Figueroa St. 44th Floor,
Los Angeles 90017

Year Established
1917

arnoldporter.com

Managing Partner(s)

Sean Morris

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
43

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
13

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
14

66

Hill Farrer & Burrill LLP

300 S. Grand Ave. 37th Floor,
Los Angeles 90071

Year Established
1923

hillfarrer.com

Managing Partner(s)

Dean Dennis

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
42

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
25

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
1

67

Freeman Freeman & Smiley LLP

1888 Century Park East Suite 1500,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established
1976

ffslaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

Steven L. Ziven

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
42

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
23

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
2

68

Miller Barondess LLP

2121 Avenue of the Stars 26th Floor,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established
2006

millerbarondess.com

Managing Partner(s)

Skip Miller

Jim Miller

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
42

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
9

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
1

69

Russ August Kabat LLP

12424 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1200,
Los Angeles 90025

Year Established
1990

raklaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

Larry C. Russ

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
38

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
9

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
2

70

Fisher Phillips

444 S. Flower St. Suite 1500, Los Angeles 90071
21600 Oxnard St. Suite 650, Woodland Hills 91367

Year Established
2011

fisherphillips.com

Managing Partner(s)

Todd B. Scherwin

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
37

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
10

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
39

71

Sklar Kirsh LLP

1880 Century Park East Suite 300,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established
2013

sklarkirsh.com

Managing Partner(s)

Jeffrey Sklar

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
36

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
15

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
1

72

Crowell & Moring LLP

515 S. Flower St. 40th Floor,
Los Angeles 90071

Year Established
1979

crowell.com

Managing Partner(s)

Valerie Goo

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
35

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
18

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
13

73

Tucker Ellis LLP

515 S. Flower St. 42nd Floor,
Los Angeles 90071

Year Established
2003

tuckerellis.com

Managing Partner(s)

Ndubisi (Bisi) Ezeolu

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
35

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
14

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
7

74

Best Best & Krieger LLP

300 South Grand Ave. 25th Floor,
Los Angeles 90071

Year Established
2006

bbklaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

Eric Garner

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
35

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
13

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
12

75

Larson LLP

555 S. Flower St. Suite 4400,
Los Angeles 90071

Year Established
2016

larsonllp.com

Managing Partner(s)

Paul A. Rigali

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
35

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
9

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
4

76

Lewis Roca

655 North Central Avenue
Suite 2300, Glendale 91203

Year Established
1950

lewisroca.com

Managing Partner(s)

Lauren E. Schneider

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County
34

Number of Partners in Los Angeles County
26

Number of Total Offices Firmwide
9

TOP 100 LAW FIRMS | Rank by Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County

77 Baker McKenzie

10250 Constellation Blvd. Suite 1850,
Los Angeles 90067
bakermckenzie.com

Managing Partner(s)

Perrie Weiner

Year Established	1949
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	33
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	12
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	79

78 Michelman & Robinson LLP

10880 Wilshire Blvd. 19th Floor,
Los Angeles 90024
mrllp.com

Managing Partner(s)

Ronald R. Camhi

Year Established	1999
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	32
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	14
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	7

79 Withersworldwide

10250 Constellation Blvd. Suite 1400,
Los Angeles 90067
withersworldwide.com

Managing Partner(s)

Michael S. Brophy

Year Established	1896
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	29
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	8
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	17

80 Locke Lord LLP

300 S. Grand Ave. Suite 2600,
Los Angeles 90071
lockelord.com

Managing Partner(s)

Nina Huerta

Year Established	1887
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	27
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	13
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	20

81 Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP

350 S. Grand Ave. Suite 3400,
Los Angeles 90071
troutman.com

Managing Partner(s)

Tambry L. Bradford

Year Established	1890
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	27
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	10
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	23

82 Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP

2029 Century Park East Suite 1100,
Los Angeles 90067
constangy.com

Managing Partner(s)

Ken Sulzer

Year Established	1946
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	27
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	10
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	35

83 Vedder Price

1925 Century Park East Suite 1900,
Los Angeles 90067
vedderprice.com

Managing Partner(s)

Jason W. Reese

Year Established	1952
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	27
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	9
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	9

84 Tyson & Mendes LLP

445 S. Figueroa St. Suite 3100,
Los Angeles 90071
tysonmendes.com

Managing Partner(s)

David F. Frishman

Year Established	2016
Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	27
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	8
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	19

JMBM Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP
jmbm.com

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- Cybersecurity & Privacy
- Government, Land Use, Environment and Energy
- Health Care
- Hospitality
- Intellectual Property and Patent Litigation
- Labor & Employment
- Litigation
- Media, Entertainment & Technology
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Natural Resources & Mining
- Real Estate
- Taxation, Trusts & Estates
- White Collar Defense & Investigations

Los Angeles | San Francisco | Orange County

TOP 100 LAW FIRMS | Rank by Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County

85

Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato LC

1000 Wilshire Blvd. 19th Floor,
Los Angeles 90017

Year Established 1978

frandzel.com

Managing Partner(s)

Hemal K. Master

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	26
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	14
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	2

86

Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt LLP

12100 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 300,
Los Angeles 90025

Year Established 1978

gibbsgiden.com

Managing Partner(s)

Christopher E. Ng

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	25
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	20
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	5

87

Dykema Gossett PLLC

444 S. Flower St. Suite 2200,
Los Angeles 90071

Year Established 1926

dykema.com

Managing Partner(s)

Jeffrey G. Huron

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	25
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	10
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	14

88

Greenspoon Marder LLP

1875 Century Park East Suite 1900, L.A. 90067
333 S. Grand Ave. Suite 3400, L.A. 90071

Year Established 1981

gmlaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

Gerald Greenspoon

Michael Marder

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	24
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	14
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	24

89

Hemar, Rousso & Heald LLP

15910 Ventura Blvd. Suite 1200,
Encino 91436

Year Established 1977

hrhlaw.com

Managing Partner(s)

Daniel Heald

Wayne R. Terry

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	24
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	9
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	1

90

Carlton Fields

2029 Century Park East Suite 1200,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established 1901

carltonfields.com

Managing Partner(s)

Steven B. Weisburd

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	23
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	12
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	11

91

Robins Kaplan LLP

2121 Avenue of the Stars Suite 2800,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established 1938

robinskaplan.com

Managing Partner(s)

Michael A. Geibelson

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	23
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	10
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	7

92

Hooper, Lundy & Bookman P.C.

1875 Century Park East Suite 1600,
Los Angeles 90067

Year Established 1987

hooperlundy.com

Managing Partner(s)

David A. Hatch

Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	22
Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	19
Number of Total Offices Firmwide	6

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Regional Managing Partner
Los Angeles/Woodland Hills
tscherwin@fisherphillips.com

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444 South Flower Street | Suite 1500 | Los Angeles, CA 90071

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21600 Oxnard Street | Suite 650 | Woodland Hills, CA 91367

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Partner-in-Charge of Baker McKenzie's Los Angeles office and Chair of the Firm's North America Securities Litigation Group

bakermckenzie.com

TOP 100 LAW FIRMS | Rank by Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County

93
Nelson Hardiman LLP
1100 Glendon Ave. 14th Floor,
Los Angeles 90024
nelsonhardiman.com

Year Established
2004

Managing Partner(s)	Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	Number of Total Offices Firmwide
Harry J. Nelson	22	8	1

94
Hahn & Hahn LLP
301 E. Colorado Blvd. 9th Floor,
Pasadena 91101
hahnlawyers.com

Year Established
1899

Managing Partner(s)	Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	Number of Total Offices Firmwide
Christianne F. Kerns	20	10	1

95
Shegerian & Associates
11520 San Vicente Blvd.,
Los Angeles 90049
shegerianlaw.com

Year Established
2001

Managing Partner(s)	Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	Number of Total Offices Firmwide
Carney R. Shegerian	20	1	6

96
Knobbe Martens
1925 Century Park East Suite 400,
Los Angeles 90067
knobbe.com

Year Established
1962

Managing Partner(s)	Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	Number of Total Offices Firmwide
Brian Horne	18	9	7

97
Husch Blackwell LLP
355 S. Grand Ave. Suite 2850,
Los Angeles 90071
huschblackwell.com

Year Established
2021

Managing Partner(s)	Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	Number of Total Offices Firmwide
Brad DeJardin	17	5	22

98
FordHarrison LLP
350 S. Grand Ave. Suite 2300,
Los Angeles 90071
fordharrison.com

Year Established
1978

Managing Partner(s)	Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	Number of Total Offices Firmwide
Daniel B. Chammas	16	7	27

99
Duane Morris LLP
865 S. Figueroa St. Suite 3100,
Los Angeles 90017
duanemorris.com

Year Established
1904

Managing Partner(s)	Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	Number of Total Offices Firmwide
Cyndie Change	16	4	33

100
Waymaker LLP
515 S. Flower St. Suite 3500,
Los Angeles 90071
waymakerlaw.com

Year Established
2006

Managing Partner(s)	Number of Attorneys in Los Angeles County	Number of Partners in Los Angeles County	Number of Total Offices Firmwide
Scott M. Malzahn	15	7	1

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Los Angeles, CA 90067
310.553.0308

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TOP 25 LAW FIRMS | CORPORATE

The corporate practice group includes the top firms ranked by number of local attorneys focused on transactional work. This group encompasses multiple industries with attorneys working on various matters such as mergers and acquisitions, finance, taxation and contracts.

1

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Number of Attorneys 109

Practice Leader(s)

Damon Fisher

2

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Number of Attorneys 58

Practice Leader(s)

John Tishler

Jeralin Cardoso

John Hempill

3

Paul Hastings LLP

Number of Attorneys 51

Practice Leader(s)

Jennifer Hildebrandt

Susan Williams

4

Milbank LLP

Number of Attorneys 49

Practice Leader(s)

Deborah Conrad

5

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Number of Attorneys 45

Practice Leader(s)

Alan Epstein

6

DLA Piper

Number of Attorneys 42

Practice Leader(s)

Andrew Gilbert

John Gilluly

Kathleen Ruhland

7

Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

Number of Attorneys 34

Practice Leader(s)

Bruce P. Jeffer

8

Lewis Roca

Number of Attorneys 34

Practice Leader(s)

Joshua T. Chu

Gregory S. Lampert

9

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Number of Attorneys 29

Practice Leader(s)

David Eisman

10

Reed Smith LLP

Number of Attorneys 28

Practice Leader(s)

James R. Tandler

11

Stubbs Alderton & Markiles LLP

Number of Attorneys 28

Practice Leader(s)

Greg Akselrud

12

Greenberg Traurig LLP

Number of Attorneys 25

Practice Leader(s)

Edward T. Schultz

Mark J. Kelson

13

Holland & Knight LLP

Number of Attorneys 24

Practice Leader(s)

Stephen Dietrich

14

Proskauer Rose LLP

Number of Attorneys 24

Practice Leader(s)

Lauren Boglivi

Andrew Bettwy

Stephen Boyko

Charles Parsons

15

McGuireWoods LLP

Number of Attorneys 22

Practice Leader(s)

Thomas Zahn

16

Greenberg Glusker LLP

Number of Attorneys 21

Practice Leader(s)

Richard Sweet

17

Morrison Foerster

Number of Attorneys 20

Practice Leader(s)

David Ephraim

Tessa Schwartz

18

BakerHostetler

Number of Attorneys 19

Practice Leader(s)

Will S. Chuchawat

19

Fox Rothschild LLP

Number of Attorneys 18

Practice Leader(s)

Erin J. Letey

Andrew D. Santana

20

Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP

Number of Attorneys 18

Practice Leader(s)

Daniel A. Berman

21

Glaser Weil Fink Howard Avchen & Shapiro LLP

Number of Attorneys 17

Practice Leader(s)

Matthew Jann

22

Nixon Peabody LLP

Number of Attorneys 17

Practice Leader(s)

Matt Grazier

23

Crowell & Moring LLP

Number of Attorneys 15

Practice Leader(s)

Jason Murray

24

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Number of Attorneys 15

Practice Leader(s)

Steven Meier

25

Pillsbury

Number of Attorneys 14

Practice Leader(s)

Christopher Pataу

TOP 25 LAW FIRMS | LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

The labor and employment specialty includes the top firms focused on labor and employment issues such as hiring, onboarding and offboarding strategies along with legal workplace compliance matters.

1

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Number of Attorneys **94**

Practice Leader(s)

Laura Maechtlen

2

Littler

Number of Attorneys **91**

Practice Leader(s)

Shannon Boyce

3

Jackson Lewis P.C.

Number of Attorneys **71**

Practice Leader(s)

Kevin Lauri

4

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

Number of Attorneys **69**

Practice Leader(s)

Amber Solano

Nate Kowalski

Tony De Marco

5

Daugherty Lordan LLP

Number of Attorneys **59**

Practice Leader(s)

Timothy R. Graves

6

Ogletree Deakins

Number of Attorneys **52**

Practice Leader(s)

Robert Roginson

Lyne Richardson

7

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Number of Attorneys **43**

Practice Leader(s)

Kelly Hensley

Jonathan Stoler

8

Fisher Phillips

Number of Attorneys **37**

Practice Leader(s)

Todd B. Scherwin

9

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Number of Attorneys **28**

Practice Leader(s)

Julie Capell

10

Paul Hastings LLP

Number of Attorneys **26**

Practice Leader(s)

Elena R. Baca

11

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP

Number of Attorneys **24**

Practice Leader(s)

Ken Sulzer

12

Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP

Number of Attorneys **22**

Practice Leader(s)

Daniel A. Berman

13

Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP

Number of Attorneys **21**

Practice Leader(s)

Steve Joffe

14

Shegerian & Associates

Number of Attorneys **20**

Practice Leader(s)

Carney R. Shegerian

15

FordHarrison LLP

Number of Attorneys **16**

Practice Leader(s)

Daniel B. Chammas

16

Proskauer Rose LLP

Number of Attorneys **16**

Practice Leader(s)

Anthony Oncidi

Neil Abramson

17

BakerHostetler

Number of Attorneys **14**

Practice Leader(s)

Eric E. Sagerman

18

Clark Hill PLC

Number of Attorneys **13**

Practice Leader(s)

Kim Moore

Brian Shekell

19

Hill Farrer & Burrill LLP

Number of Attorneys **13**

Practice Leader(s)

Dean Dennis

20

Reed Smith LLP

Number of Attorneys **13**

Practice Leader(s)

Tyree P. Jones Jr.

21

Greenberg Traurig LLP

Number of Attorneys **11**

Practice Leader(s)

Mark D. Kemple

22

Perkins Coie LLP

Number of Attorneys **11**

Practice Leader(s)

Ann Marie Painter

23

Fox Rothschild LLP

Number of Attorneys **10**

Practice Leader(s)

Catherine T. Barbieri

Skylar A. Sherwood

24

Greenberg Glusker LLP

Number of Attorneys **10**

Practice Leader(s)

Wendy Lane

25

Nixon Peabody LLP

Number of Attorneys **10**

Practice Leader(s)

Richard Frey

TOP 25 LAW FIRMS | LITIGATION

The litigation practice group includes the top firms ranked by number of local attorneys focused on litigation and dispute resolution. Litigation groups work on trials, class action, white-collar, appellate and industry-specific defense matters.

1

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP

Number of Attorneys 169

Practice Leader(s)

John Quinn

Christopher Tayback

2

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Number of Attorneys 76

Practice Leader(s)

Sascha Henry

John Brooks

Robert Friedman

3

Reed Smith LLP

Number of Attorneys 66

Practice Leader(s)

Peter M. Ellis

4

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Number of Attorneys 61

Practice Leader(s)

Damon Fisher

5

King & Spalding LLP

Number of Attorneys 56

Practice Leader(s)

Peter Strotz

6

Morrison Foerster

Number of Attorneys 52

Practice Leader(s)

Richard S.J. Hung

Christine Wong

7

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Number of Attorneys 47

Practice Leader(s)

Jacob Harper

8

Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks, Lincenberg & Rhow P.C.

Number of Attorneys 45

Practice Leader(s)

Paul S. Chan

9

DLA Piper

Number of Attorneys 45

Practice Leader(s)

Ilana Eisenstein

Loren Brown

10

Hueston Hennigan LLP

Number of Attorneys 44

Practice Leader(s)

John C. Hueston

11

Glaser Weil Fink Howard Avchen & Shapiro LLP

Number of Attorneys 43

Practice Leader(s)

Patricia L. Glaser

12

Greenberg Traurig LLP

Number of Attorneys 42

Practice Leader(s)

Karin Bohmholdt

Jordan D. Grotzinger

13

Miller Barondess LLP

Number of Attorneys 42

Practice Leader(s)

Skip Miller

14

Greenberg Glusker LLP

Number of Attorneys 38

Practice Leader(s)

Aaron Moss

15

Larson LLP

Number of Attorneys 35

Practice Leader(s)

Stephen G. Larson

16

Squire Patton Boggs

Number of Attorneys 32

Practice Leader(s)

James L. Hsu

17

Perkins Coie LLP

Number of Attorneys 29

Practice Leader(s)

Jessica L. Everett-Garcia

18

Proskauer Rose LLP

Number of Attorneys 28

Practice Leader(s)

Bart Williams

19

Paul Hastings LLP

Number of Attorneys 27

Practice Leader(s)

Nick Morgan

20

Tyson & Mendes LLP

Number of Attorneys 27

Practice Leader(s)

Kristi Blackwell

21

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Number of Attorneys 25

Practice Leader(s)

Peter B. Morrison

22

Allen Matkins

Number of Attorneys 24

Practice Leader(s)

Scott J. Leipzig

23

Freeman Freeman & Smiley LLP

Number of Attorneys 24

Practice Leader(s)

Dawn B. Eyerly

Jeffrey S. Goodfried

William E. Adams

24

Hemar, Rousso & Heald LLP

Number of Attorneys 24

Practice Leader(s)

Jennifer W. Crastz

25

Tucker Ellis LLP

Number of Attorneys 23

Practice Leader(s)

Tom Simmons

TOP 25 LAW FIRMS | REAL ESTATE

The real estate practice group includes the top firms that specialize in commercial real estate matters such as acquisition, financing, development, leasing, restructuring, and disposition of real estate assets along with other issues including land use and environmental law concerns.

1

Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP

Number of Attorneys **88**

Practice Leader(s)

Dwayne McKenzie

2

Allen Matkins

Number of Attorneys **65**

Practice Leader(s)

Tony Natsis

3

Holland & Knight LLP

Number of Attorneys **27**

Practice Leader(s)

Douglas A. Praw

4

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Number of Attorneys **26**

Practice Leader(s)

Keith Garner

Michael Leake

5

Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

Number of Attorneys **20**

Practice Leader(s)

Bruce P. Jeffer

6

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Number of Attorneys **19**

Practice Leader(s)

Paul Mattingly

7

Glaser Weil Fink Howard Avchen & Shapiro LLP

Number of Attorneys **18**

Practice Leader(s)

Daniel Jordan

8

Greenberg Glusker LLP

Number of Attorneys **17**

Practice Leader(s)

Brian Kang

9

Paul Hastings LLP

Number of Attorneys **17**

Practice Leader(s)

Derek Roth

10

DLA Piper

Number of Attorneys **16**

Practice Leader(s)

John Sullivan

Richard Klawiter

Barbara Trachtenberg

11

Freeman Freeman & Smiley LLP

Number of Attorneys **16**

Practice Leader(s)

Damon M. Juha

Glenn T. Sherman

12

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Number of Attorneys **16**

Practice Leader(s)

Damon Fisher

13

Raines Feldman LLP

Number of Attorneys **16**

Practice Leader(s)

Andrew Raines

14

Greenberg Traurig LLP

Number of Attorneys **15**

Practice Leader(s)

Michael H. Davis

Garin T. Muranaka

15

Polsinelli

Number of Attorneys **15**

Practice Leader(s)

Kraig Kohring

16

Nixon Peabody LLP

Number of Attorneys **13**

Practice Leader(s)

Sonia Nayak

Bryan LeRoy

17

Clark Hill PLC

Number of Attorneys **16**

Practice Leader(s)

Kevin Hendrick

Edward Hood

Danny Cerrone, Jr.

18

Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato LC

Number of Attorneys **12**

Practice Leader(s)

Hemal K. Master

19

Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt LLP

Number of Attorneys **12**

Practice Leader(s)

Richard Wittbrodt

20

Mayer Brown

Number of Attorneys **12**

Practice Leader(s)

Brian Aronson

21

McGuireWoods LLP

Number of Attorneys **12**

Practice Leader(s)

Dennis Mensi

22

Sklar Kirsh LLP

Number of Attorneys **12**

Practice Leader(s)

Andrew Kirsh

23

Akerman LLP

Number of Attorneys **10**

Practice Leader(s)

Lisa Kolieb

24

Hill Farrer & Burrill LLP

Number of Attorneys **9**

Practice Leader(s)

Dean Dennis

25

Russ August Kabat LLP

Number of Attorneys **8**

Practice Leader(s)

Larry C. Russ

Miller
Barondess LLP

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2023 TOP LAW FIRM

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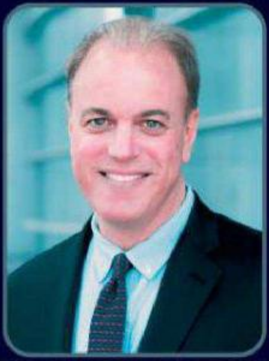

MARK BARONDESS

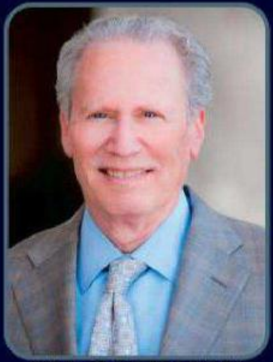
JIM MILLER

SASHA FRID

DAN MILLER

MIRA HASHMALL

AMNON SIEGEL


JIM GOLDMAN

JASON TOKORO

CASEY SYPEK

DAVID SCHECTER

NADIA SARKIS

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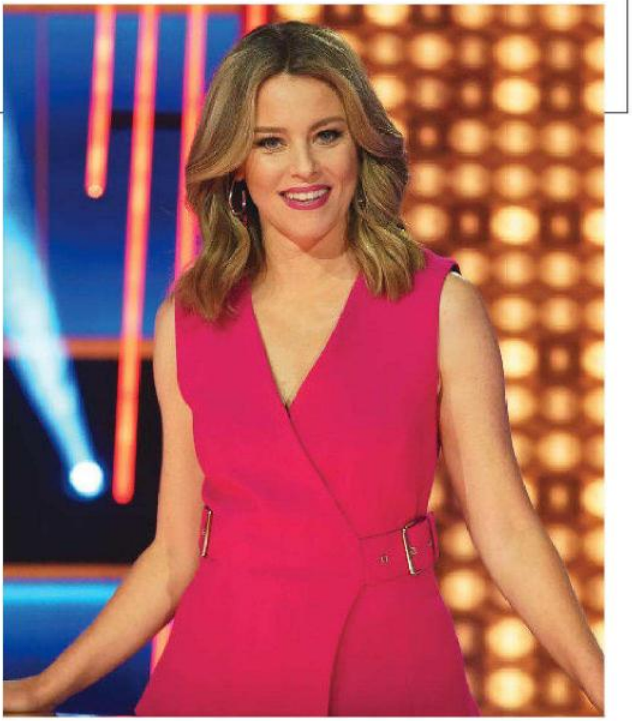
The Parade Don't Miss List

Here's what's on our radar this week. Go to ***Parade.com/entertainment*** for more.

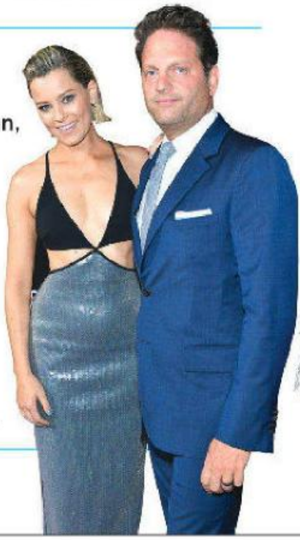
ELIZABETH BANKS IS GAME



Elizabeth Banks, 49, who has had starring roles in two blockbuster film franchises—Effie Trinket in *The Hunger Games* films and Gail Abernathy-McKadden in the *Pitch Perfect* franchise—took the hosting gig on ***PRESS YOUR LUCK*** **(June 29 on ABC)** because she enjoyed watching the 1980s version of the game show as a kid. *Press Your Luck* returns for its fifth season and contestants put their skills to the test in what the show describes as a game of "wits, strategy and high stakes as they try to avoid the iconic 'Whammy' for a chance at life-changing cash and prizes." Here are several facts you may not know about the actress/host/producer/director.

➔Banks—born Elizabeth Mitchell—changed her name because the Screen Actors Guild already had a member with that name. "I cried when I changed it," she says.

➔Banks made her film debut in the independent film *Surrender Dorothy*, which she considers one of the worst mistakes of her career to date.



➔Banks met her husband, **Max Handelman,** a sportswriter, on her first day at the University of Pennsylvania (September 7, 1992). They were married in 2003 and have two sons.

➔Her directorial film debut was ***Pitch Perfect 2*** (2015) whose $69 million opening-weekend gross set a record for a first-time director.

➔*Unveiled* is a party game and guide for bachelorette parties that Banks designed.

A Party Game & Guide for Bachelorettes
Unveiled

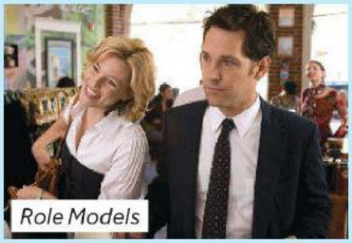
➔Her *The Hunger Games* character **Effie Trinket was made into a Barbie doll** and has its own Pinterest page.

LEADING MAN FACE-OFF

Banks has appeared in five films with each of these stars.

PAUL RUDD

Wet Hot American Summer
The Baxter
The 40-Year-Old Virgin
Our Idiot Brother



Role Models

TOBEY MAGUIRE

Spider-Man
Seabiscuit
Spider-Man 3
The Details

Spider-Man 2

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ABC/ERIC MCCANDLESS; AJ PICS/ALAMY; TCD/PROD.DB/ALAMY; AMY SUSSMAN/GETTY IMAGES; PICTURELUX/THE HOLLYWOOD ARCHIVE/ALAMY

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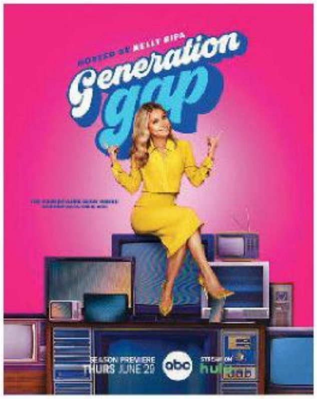
WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

KELLY RIPA

The *Live With Kelly and Mark* host, 52, returns for a second season of family fun on the game show ***Generation Gap* (June 29 on ABC)**, which began as a segment on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* before transforming into its current hour-long format. Season two will feature new teams of seniors and their grandkids in challenges requiring them to answer pop-culture questions from each other's generations to win the prize money.

You've called *Generation Gap* more of a comedy than a game show. How so? I like to say that the right answers win the money, but the wrong answers win the laughter. The more wrong the answer is, the funnier it is and sometimes you cannot believe what comes out of people's mouths. When they're wrong, they're all the way wrong.



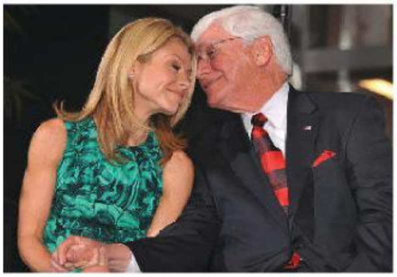
Which generation does better overall? I think you'd be surprised. This is our second season, and the takeaway is that the senior generation knows a lot about a lot. Just because the older generation is older, it doesn't mean that they are forgetful. Maybe their finger on the button isn't as fast, but guess what? They know a lot about a lot—their generation and their grandkids' generation.

This game started as a segment on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* How did you become the host? Jimmy and I have been friends for many, many years. He's seen me with my kids when they were young—now they're adults—but he's seen me raise small children and bring my parents or my in-laws everywhere, so he has seen me walk that line between the generations. He was like, "Wow! You're good with young people and old people, you'd be perfect for this show." It was really just as simple as that.

He and I really value working with your family—working with a close set of friends who are like family or your actual, literal family—so we're very similar in that sense. Also, we have a similar sense of humor, a similar sensibility and we're not big on being a pain in the butt or working with pains in the butt. We like to keep it free-flowing and have an enjoyable environment. That's what we both bring to the table.

Does your dad, who is a series regular, love it? The Kimmels know my dad. He and Jimmy's Aunt Chippy have hung out together. When I've done the talk show in Las Vegas, Aunt Chippy and my dad, Joe, were together the entire time. She's like his unofficial tour guide.

My dad is so comfortable being himself that when we shot season one out in California, we thought, *Wouldn't it be funny to have my dad play a role in some way?* We thought it would be funny for him to sing lyrics and see if either generation could figure out what he's trying to say. Spoiler alert: my dad doesn't sing anything; he just speaks like himself no matter what. So, this year, we're shooting it in the New York studios and within the studio, we built my dad an at-home version of how he consumes television in his own home.



Ripa with father, Joe, on the set of *Generation Gap.*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ABC/RICKY MIDDLESWORTH; ABC; GILBERT CARRASQUILLO/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES

Why do you think ratings are up on *Live* since your hubby—Mark Consuelos—joined the show? I have never paid attention to the ratings because I don't like to get mired down in that. I think that people genuinely love Mark. He's not worried about impressing people. There is no artifice with Mark. He is completely comfortable being himself and that's why it works. That's why I've always loved him, and I think that's why the viewing audience loves him.

So, we've got the reclining chair, we've got the side table with his water cup, his bowl of loose change and snacks right there on the studio floor. And now we have my dad saying movie lines or saying lines from a commercial, but always as himself. He gets very impatient with me. He doesn't care that we're in a studio shooting a TV show, if he's got to use the bathroom he just gets up and leaves.

When you ask a toddler in the Toddler's Choice to pick between a car and a toy, has anyone ever picked the car? This year, we switched up the Toddler's Choice because we were afraid that parents would be like, "They're going to offer you a car or a toy. We'll buy you the toy, take the car." So, this year, we offered a variety of things; sometimes there was a car involved. Tots of that age have an impulse to go for the instant gratification thing and, so inadvertently, a couple of times, they have chosen wildly expensive and thrilling prizes because they thought they were getting a toy because they saw a prop that was showing what this incredible prize is, or a couple of times a tot was hungry and so they reached for what they thought was grapes but really what they chose was an extraordinary trip somewhere. So, it's still the most thrilling one minute of television, I think, available to a viewing audience.

You've been doing *Live* for 23 years. How do you keep it fresh? There is a newness to it every day. It's live television and so there's constantly an element of danger to it. I like to remind myself that it's never as good as I think it is, and it's never as bad as I think it is. Gelman [the exec producer] taught me that many, many years ago and it's the best piece of advice I've ever gotten; to just live in the moment, be present, pay attention, listen and engage, and that's what we do every day. It's always fresh because it's always something different. Every show presents its own unique challenges. Every show has its own thrill aspect and yet there is a certain comfort in the day in and day out of going to the same place with the same group of people: our producers, our director, our sound people. We don't have writers. We are a show that is happening in real time. As it's happening, as you're seeing it, it's coming out of our mouths and so there is something dangerous and thrilling to all of that.

Do you ever miss acting? I have been spoiled by the *Live* hours. Working on *All My Children*, those were long hours. But I never say never because I am an actress at heart. That was my chosen profession and that is how I got my start in show business. I loved working on the sitcom [*Hope & Faith*] with Faith Ford. That was probably my favorite job I've ever had. I really did love that format. It was challenging doing it while I was hosting the talk show. It seemed like my day never ended during those years, but my kids were young. I got to bring them to work with me every day, so I still managed to formulate a life within the work life. I never say never to anything.

You have a podcast *Let's Talk Off Camera [With Kelly Ripa]*. How is that different from the kinds of questions you ask your guests on *Live*? I think people are more inhibited when they're on camera. I certainly am. When you take away the camera and you're just having a free-flowing conversation, usually an hour long, you can cover a wide swath of topics, whether it's political activism, whether it's a recipe that they like to make, whether it's their marriage, whether it's their film career. You really get to delve deep with people. I've talked to friends and celebrities and sometimes it's just people I admire, and so it gives you a lot to unpack.

Because of the nature of the questions you ask, do you only book people that you know? We've booked a lot of guests like Salma Hayek, Joel McHale, Anderson Cooper and Jeffrey Dean Morgan. If it's a celebrity like that, it's usually topic specific, but with Anderson Cooper, who is many decades a friend of mine, we had no topic. Nothing was off-limits, so it was more of a rambling discussion about our families, our friendship, how we both got started in the business, how we met and where our lives intersect. Then when it's somebody like Carol Burnett, we were there to interview her about her 90th birthday special, but it again rambled back to when we first met when she was on *All My Children* and I was on *All My Children*. We cover a lot in a one-hour discussion versus a 4-minute discussion.

Between the podcast and *Live*, you share so much about your personal life but are there certain things that, for all your candor, remain private? Oh, yeah. There's a lot I keep private because some things have to be just for me, or just for me and Mark. You have to have that. Everybody's entitled to a little bit of privacy.

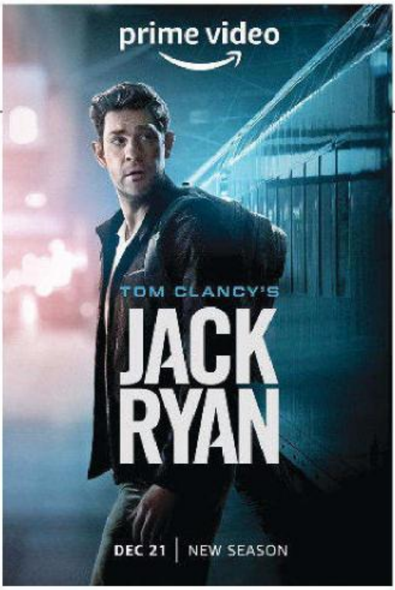
Of course, but we all think we know who you are... You do, but there are certain things you wouldn't want to know. Trust me. P

DISNEY GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT/MILLER MOBLEY

The Parade Don't Miss List

TOM CLANCY'S JACK RYAN

(JUNE 30 ON PRIME VIDEO)



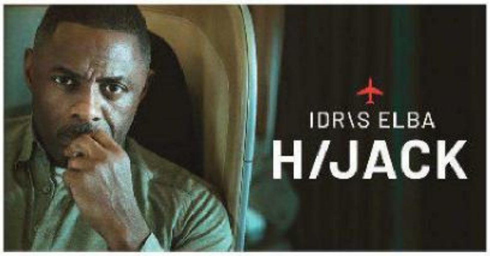
It's the fourth and final season of *Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan*. **John Krasinski** is once again Ryan in the political thriller, this time around as the newly promoted CIA Acting Deputy Director. His character will embark on the dangerous mission of unearthing internal corruption, and will uncover a series of suspicious black ops that could expose the vulnerability of the country.

Krasinski, 43, enjoys playing Ryan because the series demonstrates that there are good people in this world who act on what's right. "I remember being a kid and watching all those other actors —from Alec Baldwin to Harrison Ford—play the role and loving every second of it," he says. "You hope that someone like Jack Ryan is out there. That there's someone with a moral compass fighting to do what's right."

As Ryan and team investigate how deep the corruption runs, he discovers the convergence of a drug cartel with a terrorist organization—ultimately revealing a conspiracy much closer to home and testing our hero's belief in the system he has always fought to protect.

HIJACK

(JUNE 28 ON APPLE TV+)



Fasten your seat belts! **Idris Elba**, 50, is in for a bumpy ride aboard this upcoming seven-part series that follows the path of a hijacked plane in real time as it makes its way to London from Dubai over a seven-hour flight.

Elba produces as well as stars as Sam Nelson, an accomplished negotiator in the business world, who needs to employ his bargaining skills to try and save the lives of the 200 passengers by getting the plane safely back on the ground. His high-risk strategy—it's either them or us and it's not going to be us—could be his undoing.

"I wanted to make something that has impact as an actor, obviously, but also as a producer in terms of what my taste is," Elba says. "*Hijack* really ticked so many boxes. It takes a fresh approach to a thriller and hostage situation. There's an amplified nature of having a ticking time bomb in a plane and what that does to human nature." In addition to Elba, Archie Panjabi plays Zahra Gahfoor, a counterterrorism officer who is on the ground when the plane is hijacked and becomes part of the investigation.

STAR WATCH

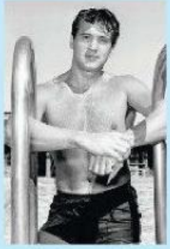
DOMINIC COOPER and **HUGH BONNEVILLE** star in the six-episode British crime drama *The Gold* on Paramount+ on June 25.

The Bachelorette with host **JESSE PALMER** returns for a new season, June 26 on ABC.

Siblings **KEVIN** and **FRANKIE JONAS** are back as the hosts of *Claim to Fame*, June 26 on ABC.

It's the final season of *Grown-ish* for **YARA SHAHIDI** on Freeform on June 28.

ROCK HUDSON fans won't want to miss the HBO biography, *Rock Hudson: All That Heaven Allowed*, premiering on June 28.



HENRY CAVILL returns in the fourth season of *The Witcher* on June 29 on Netflix.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: AMAZON PRIME; MIKE COPPOLA/GETTY IMAGES; IAN WEST - POOL/GETTY IMAGES; ABC/CRAIG SJODIN; ABC/MAARTEN DE BOER; MICHAEL TULLBERG/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES; MAX; NETFLIX

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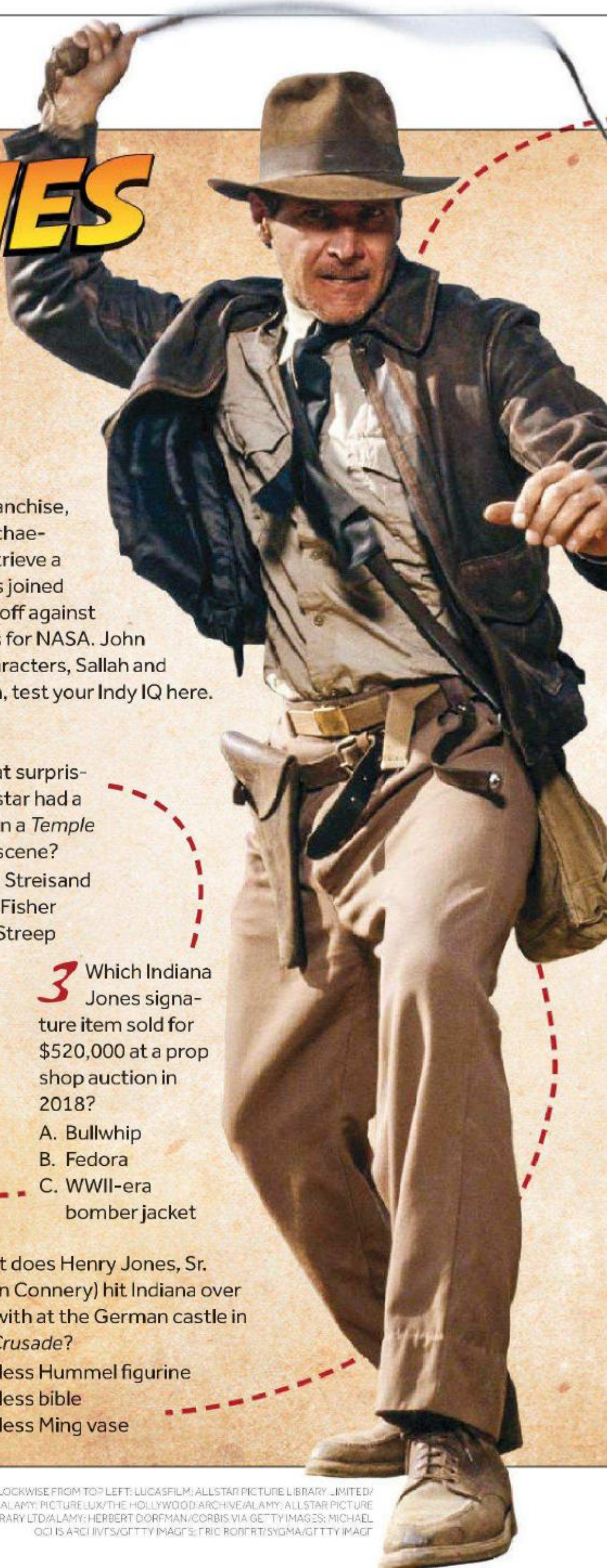
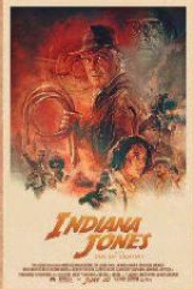
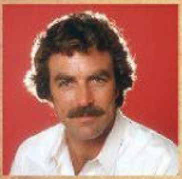


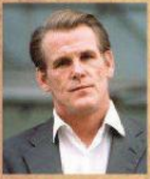
INDIANA JONES IS BACK!

JUNE 30 IN THEATERS



The long-awaited fifth film in the Indiana Jones franchise, *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*, sees the archaeologist (**Harrison Ford**) racing against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history. He's joined by his goddaughter (**Phoebe Waller-Bridge**) as they face off against Jürgen Voller (Mads Mikkelsen), a former Nazi who works for NASA. John Rhys-Davies and Karen Allen are back as fan-favorite characters, Sallah and Marion Ravenwood. While you wait for the movie to open, test your Indy IQ here. (Answers on page 19.)



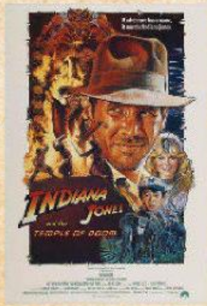


1 Who was originally offered the role of Indiana Jones?

A. Tom Selleck

B. Peter Coyote

C. Nick Nolte


INDIANA JONES and the TEMPLE OF DOOM

2 What surprising star had a "cameo" in a *Temple of Doom* scene?

A. Barbra Streisand

B. Carrie Fisher

C. Meryl Streep

3 Which Indiana Jones signature item sold for $520,000 at a prop shop auction in 2018?

A. Bullwhip

B. Fedora

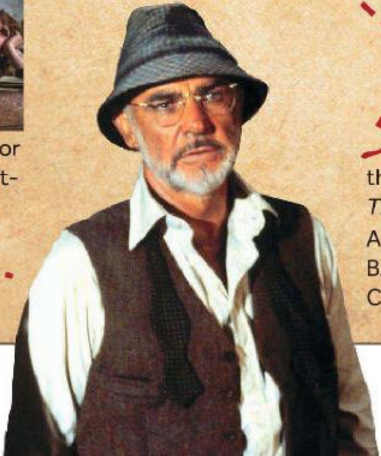
C. WWII-era bomber jacket

4 What does one of Professor Jones's students have written on her eyelids?

A. CALL ME

B. LOVE YOU

C. PASS ME



5 What does Henry Jones, Sr. (Sean Connery) hit Indiana over the head with at the German castle in *The Last Crusade*?

A. A priceless Hummel figurine

B. A priceless bible

C. A priceless Ming vase

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: LUCASFILM; ALLSTAR PICTURE LIBRARY LIMITED/ ALAMY; PICTURELUX/THE HOLLYWOOD ARCHIVE/ALAMY; ALLSTAR PICTURE LIBRARY LTD/ALAMY; HERBERT DORFMAN/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; ERIC ROBERT/SYGMA/GETTY IMAGES

6 Why does the adult Indiana Jones hate snakes so much?

A. His pet snake bit him when he was a boy

B. He fell into a nest of snakes on a scout trip

C. He fell into a box of circus snakes

7 How did Indy's father, Henry Jones, Sr., teach him patience?

A. He made him count to 20 in Greek before responding to him

B. He made him write out the *Chronicles of St. Anselm*

C. He made him recite the Bible

8 What surprising thing happened during the zeppelin scene in *The Last Crusade*?

A. Ford and Connery ad-libbed the whole thing

B. Ford and Connery kept laughing and disrupting the scene

C. Ford and Connery were not wearing pants

9 Whose dog inspired the nickname "Indiana" for young Henry Jones Jr.?

A. George Lucas

B. Steven Spielberg

C. Harrison Ford

10 Where was *The Last Crusade* motorcycle chase scene filmed?

A. Germany

B. California

C. Jordan

11 Which *Ghostbusters* alum had a cameo in *Temple of Doom*?

A.Bill Murray

B. Harold Ramis

C. Dan Aykroyd

12 Karen Allen, who plays Marion Ravenwood in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, was in what popular movie first?

A. *Grease*

B. *Animal House*

C. *Urban Cowboy*

13

What character was played by an actor who, decades after appearing in an *Indiana Jones* movie, would win an Academy Award?

A. Short Round/ Ke Huy Quan

B. Elsa Schneider/ Alison Doody

C. Mutt Williams/ Shia LaBeouf

14

What famous scene changed film action sequences forever?

A. *Raiders of the Lost Ark* rolling boulder

B. *Temple of Doom* train car ride

C. *The Last Crusade* speedboat chase

15 What started to be insured on movie sets, thanks to the *Indiana Jones* movies?

A. Rats

B. Monkeys

C. Snakes

LEFT TO RIGHT FROM TOP: SUNSET BOULEVARD/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES; LUCASFILM LTD/PARAMOUNT/ALAMY; ISTOCK; MURRAY CLOSE/ GETTY IMAGES; COLUMBIA PICTURES/RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE /ALAMY; SUNSET BOULEVARD/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES; CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES; CINEMATIC COLLECTION/ALAMY; MAXIMUM FILM/ALAMY; CINEMATIC COLLECTION/ALAMY; CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES; AJ PICS/ALAMY

> "For better or worse, we're a **big part** of each other's lives."

COVER BY STEPHEN LOVEKIN/SHUTTERSTOCK; MAIN BY JOHN SHEARER/GETTY IMAGES FOR AMC NETWORKS

JON + JOHN

THE *MAD MEN* DUO ARE BACK, WITH JOHN SLATTERY DIRECTING JON HAMM IN A QUIRKY NEW MYSTERY, *MAGGIE MOORE(S)*.

BY MARA REINSTEIN

"Hey, buddy, let's see what you got."

So, John Slattery didn't actually utter these words to Jon Hamm upon their initial interaction. But Hamm jokes that his costar was thinking it.

This would be in 2006, on the first morning of shooting the *Mad Men* pilot episode at Silvercup Studios in New York City. Hamm, a relative unknown from St. Louis, had landed the lead role of tormented ad whiz Don Draper. Now he had to recite four pages' worth of dialogue in a key scene with a handful of older and more established peers. Among them? Slattery, who had auditioned twice for Don Draper only to be told that it had already been cast. "I'm looking in the mirror and thinking, *OK, you've got the part and now you've got to do it*," Hamm says.

He did. And by the end of the day, "John and I were cutting up and joking with each other and had a really good time. That attitude and that friendship really was forged in that moment," Hamm says.

And all these years later, it's still thriving.

The longtime pals collaborate in the off-kilter crime caper *Maggie Moore(s),* now playing in theaters after a successful Tribeca Festival premiere. Slattery is behind the camera in his feature-film directorial debut; Hamm stars as an unassuming small-town police chief and grieving widower called to investigate the back-to-back murders of two women, both named Maggie Moore. A divorcé and neighbor of one of the victims (Tina Fey) helps him piece together the clues. The story is loosely based on true events.

"When I read the script, I knew right out of the gate that Jon should do it," Slattery says. "And I had his phone number. That definitely helps." Hamm says, "For better or worse, we're a big part of each other's lives."

continued on page 12

from page 11

FROM *MEN* TO *MAGGIE*

The two may be close, but they're roughly 3,000 miles from each other on this early June afternoon. Hamm, 52, is Zooming from his office in Los Angeles, where a framed autographed bat and base from St. Louis Cardinals legend Stan Musial is proudly displayed in the background. "I have a footprint in New York but home is here and the dog is here," Hamm says. (So is his fiancée, actress Anna Osceola.) Slattery, 60, is in the Long Island home that he shares with his wife of 25 years, *Homeland* actress Talia Balsam, and their 24-year-old son, Harry. He makes it known that as a Red Sox fan, he roots against his friend's beloved hometown team.

Though eight years have passed since *Mad Men* aired its last episode—and the two stars are most definitely not wearing '60s-era suits and ties—it's difficult to look at them on the computer screen and not immediately pester them with questions about the iconic Emmy-winning series. (Slattery played quick-witted ad agency partner Roger Sterling.) The topic seems especially relevant given that they're speaking just days after another prestige NYC-set drama, *Succession,* ended its tenure on HBO and sparked a slew of "Best TV Show Ever" headlines.

"That didn't bother me," Hamm says. "Sure, there is recency bias, and everyone is talking about it because it's the thing to talk about, but it certainly didn't negate my experience on *Mad Men.* The recognition and accolades we had were amazing. I don't think we'll ever see that again in our careers." Slattery picks up on the comment: "I did watch *Succession* and get a pang of *It would be fun to be on that show.* Because that's what we're all looking for all the time!"

That's why neither of them took their *Mad Men* experience for granted. "The show got better and ramped up to a certain level as it went along," Slattery says. "I mean, those table reads were amazing." And while show creator Matthew Weiner was famously fastidious in how he ran the set, his actors forged a true bond. Says Hamm, "We were all in the same boat and trying to do the best we could. We'd all been around long enough to understand how incredibly lucky we were to do this. The episodes and the schedule were not easy, but we never lost that sense of wonder."

After the show wrapped, Hamm and Slattery—the former refers to his pal as "Mr. Slattery," "Slatty" and "Johnny" throughout the interview—stayed tight. "We've maintained a friendship in a way that I don't have with anybody else in the cast," Hamm says. "Maybe it's because we have a lot in common. Maybe it's because we're in the same town an awful lot. Or we just like each other and like working together."

First Hamm asked Slattery to pop up in the 2022 comedy *Confess, Fletch*. "I thought he'd like the part and could come to work for a few days and tell a few jokes," he says. "And we had a great time." (He's trying to get a sequel greenlit.)

In turn, Slattery contacted his friend when developing *Maggie Moore(s).* Well, technically, he sent the script to Hamm's agent. "It's tricky because I didn't want to impose and think he had to do me a favor if he wasn't comfortable playing the role," Slattery says. "That's the good Catholic in me."

But Hamm—who maintains, "if it were not to my liking, I certainly would have given my opinion to him"—jumped at the opportunity. "He's solving these heinous crimes and there are very real emotions that come with that," he says of the character. "But then he's got to go home and sit with himself and sometimes that's even more difficult on a human level. It's a resonant point for a lot of people of a certain age."

Slattery and Hamm don't take their incredible experience working on *Mad Men* for granted. Now Slattery directs Hamm (and Tina Fey) in *Maggie Moore(s)*.

Slattery himself can somewhat relate to the thematic undertones. With the Writers Guild of America strike still in effect (as of press time), "I'm basically sitting around the house. It's nice to have this coming out and I can talk about it. And it was nice as a producer and director to do this film because I had control over what it was going to look like and sound like. It takes a lot of work, but it's worth it."

FROM TOP: FRANK OCKENFELS/AMC; SCREEN MEDIA FILMS

SWINGS AND MISSES

On paper, they're a study in contrast—at least the early chapter. The Missouri-born Hamm, an only child, was raised by his mother, Deborah, a secretary, in the suburbs until her death from colon cancer. He was 10. He then lived with his father, Daniel, who managed a family trucking company. Slattery, one of six kids, was born and raised in a close-knit Irish Catholic family in Boston. His mom, Joan, was an accountant; his dad, John, a local leather merchant.

Both found escape in movies and television (and baseball). Hamm recalls the thrill of watching the Indiana Jones films on the big screen. "I remember seeing Harrison Ford with the bullwhip and thinking, *Man, that would be great. I can play his son!*" he says. (A *Star Wars* fanatic, he also envisioned himself as Han Solo's future progeny.) "Then you eventually start acting and you realize it's not just playing around. A lot of work goes into it, and you have to start focusing and learning."

Hamm with actress Anna Osceola.
Slattery with his wife, actress Talia Balsam.

FROM TOP: KARWAI TANG/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; JIM SPELLMAN/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

And hustling. After moving to L.A. in the '90s, he struggled for years trying to make a living in his chosen field. Paychecks would consist of just a couple hundred dollars a month. "It's a lot of swinging and missing before you're steadily hitting the ball," Hamm says. "They don't teach you in acting school what the business is all about and the actual ins and outs of going on a million auditions and the disappointment of not getting the part. The sheer numbers game of it all is hard to understand."

Hamm worked as a bartender and a cater waiter in between auditions. ("You learn a lot about people when you're serving them food and drinks, that's for sure.") For every small role that he landed (see: Young Pilot No. 2 in the 2000 Clint Eastwood-directed film *Space Cowboys* and Capt. Matt Dillon in the 2002 war drama *When We Were Soldiers*), he'd lose out on something else (it was a "no" for a role in the quirky early aughts NBC drama *Ed).* But he tried to keep a positive attitude: "I've always been a big proponent of having a life and friends and other stuff to do during the fallow times. At least L.A. fosters that mellow approach. I didn't want to move to New York City because that energy was debilitating for me."

Slattery, however, was an East Coaster through and through. After being reared on a steady diet of classic movies and an old BBC production of Shakespeare's *I, Claudius,* he says the "light bulb went on" and he realized that acting was a job that he could pursue. "It didn't occur to me to do anything else," he says.

But he had to first earn the money to make it happen. Slattery groans, recalling how he hated toiling as a gas-station attendant in the freezing cold during his junior year of high school in the mid-'70s. Then he had to wash trays at a bakery. Then he delivered prescriptions for a local drug store, which proved to be the most demoralizing gig of all. "I thought I was going to get so much action and boy that was not the case," he says. "People couldn't take the bag of drugs and close the door any faster than they did. I was a confirmed loser of all losers."

On the screen, he started off in a 1988 TV version of *The Dirty Dozen*, followed by a 1989 episode of *Father Dowling Mysteries*. ("I had a mullet!") For the next 15 years, he became a quintessential "Where do I know him from?!" character actor. Perhaps you spotted Slattery in episodes of *Party of Five, China Beach, Law & Order, Will & Grace, Judging Amy* or the films *The Station Agent* and *Mona Lisa Smile.*

A memorable exception? In his arc on *Sex and the City* in 2000, he played a politician dating Sarah Jessica Parker's Carrie Bradshaw who had a rather icky sexual request. "It took a little bit of time to live it down," he says. "A friend told me that her mother called her when she saw the show and said, 'Are his parents still alive?!'" (They were.) In the plus column, "If you make noise in this business, someone else will hire you. So, the role got noticed, which was good."

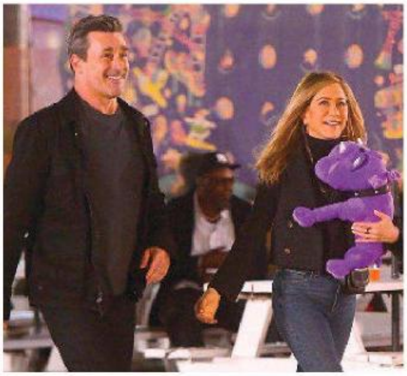
Hamm echoes the sentiment: "If you work long enough, someone will take a flyer out on you. And that begets confidence. And that begets relationships and all the other intangibles that really help you be comfortable and believable in people's living rooms once a week. And when one of your friends has a project, you go, *That person would be good for this role*. So much of this business is difficult, so it's so nice to remove some of those obstacles."

continued on page 14

from page 13

THE FUTURE

When you work relentlessly for a solid decade before the right role in the right series comes along, the coast is never clear. “There’s not a hell of a lot of security in this business,” Slattery says. “And even when you think you do have security, you go *Yeah, well, what’s going to be next?*” Seconds Hamm, “I’m not sitting on pins and needles waiting for the phone to ring, but the feeling of insecurity never goes away. At least you do have some chips to work with. And I can actually get my own projects off the ground.”



Hamm plays a corporate bigwig (opposite Jennifer Anniston) in the third season of *The Morning Show*.

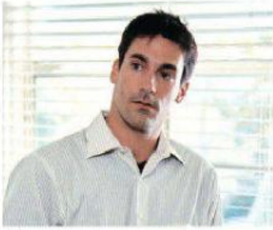
Hamm’s current schedule reflects that. In the upcoming third season of the Apple TV+ drama *The Morning Show*, he portrays a corporate titan who sets his sights on acquiring the UBA broadcast network. He also appears in the fifth installment of *Fargo,* the drama anthology that follows a new murder investigation in a Midwest city each season. On a lighter note, Hamm plays a coach in *Mean Girls*, the musical version of the stage show based on the 2004 comedy. Will he sing and dance? “I will not spoil anything!” (Responds Slattery,

JON HAMM

> “I remember seeing Harrison Ford with the bullwhip and thinking, *Man, that would be great. I can play his son!*”

Mad Men

Ally McBeal



The Division

The Town

Top Gun: Maverick

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt

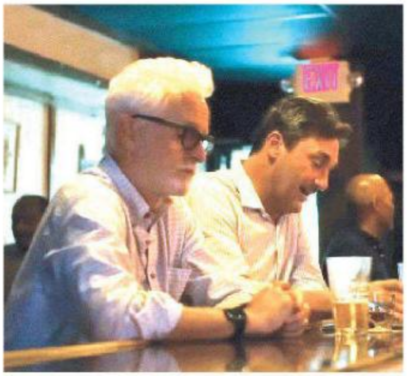
Maggie Moore(s)

The man who inhabited Don Draper for 92 episodes in ***Mad Men*** (2007-2015) started small (and not as Indiana Jones’s son). That was Hamm credited as “Gorgeous Guy at Bar” in a 1997 episode of ***Ally McBeal***. He played Inspector Nate Basso in ***The Division*** (2002-2004) with Taraji P. Henson and was FBI Special Agent Adam Fraley in Ben Affleck’s ***The Town*** (2010). He was hairy Reverend Richard Wayne Gary Wayne on ***Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*** (2015-2020) and clean-cut Admiral Beau “Cyclone” Simpson in ***Top Gun: Maverick*** (2022). After *Confess, Fletch* (2022) and ***Maggie Moore(s)*** (2023), he’ll head to *The Morning Show* as corporate titan Paul Marks.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RAYMOND HALL/GC IMAGES; AJ PICS/ALAMY; ERIC LIEBOWITZ/NETFLIX/EVERETT

"He moves well. I'm just going to say that.")

Slattery plans to spend the summer with his wife and son, who's just started taking acting classes. He'll surf. He has a boat but admits he's "terrible" at catching fish. "When you get older, your time becomes more precious and you want to spend it with the right people," he says. "You get a little more perspective and you wonder if it's worth leaving them to do something else. But I do like acting a lot and hope to do more of it."



Slattery and Hamm reunited in *Confess, Fletch* in 2022. Hamm is hoping to get a sequel greenlit.

Yet with all the rampant talk of AI and strikes, both acknowledge that the future is as uncertain as ever. "The business has completely changed even from a few years ago," Slattery says. "And I don't know what the solution is." Hamm continues, "Who knows what the landscape will look like in 2030? I hope there will still be parts and a place for creators, and we're not just plugged into some algorithm like it's something out of *Soylent Green*."

On the bright side? "We had a pretty good run," Hamm adds with a sly smile. Besides, there's always baseball.

Want more *Parade*? Go to ***Parade.com/newsletters*** for daily stories.

JOHN SLATTERY

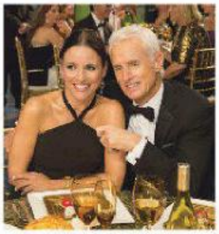
"If you make noise in this business, someone else will hire you. So, the [*Sex and the City*] role got noticed, which was good."

The Dirty Dozen

Jack & Bobby

Sex and the City

Spotlight



VEEP

Before he was Roger Sterling in the beloved ***Mad Men*** (2007-2015) and asked **Sarah Jessica Parker** to pee on him in that notorious episode of ***Sex and the City*** (2000), Slattery got a break as Leeds in ***The Dirty Dozen*** (1988) and sported a mullet in a 1989 episode of *Father Dowling Mysteries*. After small parts in *Law & Order* (1998-2000), *Will & Grace* (1999), *Judging Amy* (1999-2000), *The Station Agent* (2003) and *Mona Lisa Smile* (2003), he played Peter Benedict in ***Jack & Bobby*** (2004-2005), Victor Lang in *Desperate Housewives* (2007) and Richardson in *The Adjustment Bureau* (2011) with Matt Damon and Emily Blunt. He was Ben Bradlee in the Academy Award-winning ***Spotlight*** (2015), Charlie Baird on ***Veep*** (2016) and Fred Schlafly in the miniseries *Mrs. America* (2020). *Maggie Moore(s)* is his feature directorial debut.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 20TH CENTURY FOX FILM CORP/EVERETT; 20TH CENTURY FOX FILM CORP/COURTESY EVERETT; PARAMOUNT GLOBAL/EVERETT; HBO/EVERETT; PARAMOUNT PICTURES/NEWSMAKERS/GETTY IMAGES

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BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

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Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

81		75		53		51		49
79								37
69								31
65								29
5		7		9		23		27

For more Numbrix puzzles, go to ***Parade.com/numbrix***.

I immigrated to the U.S. when I was 20 years old, which was decades ago, and when I speak in English, I can't detect any accent. To me, I sound perfectly "American." But when I listen to my recorded voice, I notice an unmistakable German accent. Why can't I hear my own accent?

—Ilse Sugarbaker, Washington, D.C.

Few of us actually listen to ourselves when we're speaking. When we hear our recorded voices, it typically comes as an unwelcome shock. I doubt that anyone (professionals such as singers aside) thinks, "Oh, is that how I sound to others? I'm so pleased!"

First, we hear our voices through our bodies, adding solid and liquid sound conduction to the air transmission of sound waves through our ears. This makes our voices sound deeper and richer to ourselves.

Second—and here's where we approach the subject of accents—when we're speaking, we don't notice our little idiosyncratic vocal mannerisms, such as clipping some words, hissing certain letters, slurring polysyllabic words, raising our voices at the end of many declarative sentences, repeating favorite words ("Right?" Agreed?"), and much more. Of course, those are negative. But we also don't hear our positive vocal traits, such as our accents.

Plenty of sounds are native to some languages but not to others. If we didn't learn to manipulate our facial muscles—mainly the lips and tongue—to articulate them by the time we were teenagers, we may never be able to accomplish it. (The French "r" is a famous example.) But why try? If we're easy to understand, I suggest we freely retain the native character of our speech, which I believe the great majority of people find charming.

CLASSIC ASK MARILYN

THE GOODWORDS QUESTION

Marilyn posed this puzzle to her readers on Aug. 5, 2001

Find the vertical/horizontal/diagonal path to a 25-letter answer. Use each letter once.

G	H	T	I	N
I	L	D	E	S
N	N	L	R	T
E	E	A	H	T
P	O	R	A	A

Clue from Marilyn: They cater to midnight cravings. Second clue from Marilyn: Start with D.

THE GIRLFRIEND QUESTION

March 5, 2006

A student at Yale has one girlfriend in New York and another in Boston. He visits them by train. Trains to New York and Boston arrive equally often. To be fair to the girlfriends, he goes to the station randomly and takes the next train going to either city. Yet, by the end of the year, he finds that he is visiting the New York girlfriend 90 percent of the time. How can this be?

–L. Nalesnik, New Haven, Conn.

Find solutions to Marilyn's puzzles and this week's Numbrix on the next page!

THE GIRLFRIEND QUESTION

The answer is: When the boyfriend gets to the station, the next train is going to New York the great majority of the time.

Here's one way that could happen: Say the train to New York arrives every hour on the hour, and the train to Boston arrives 6 minutes after the hour. If the boyfriend gets to the station between 3:01 and 3:06 p.m., the train to Boston will be the next to arrive. But if he gets there between 3:07 and 4 p.m., the train to New York will arrive next. And as he goes to the station randomly, that will be about 90 percent of the time.

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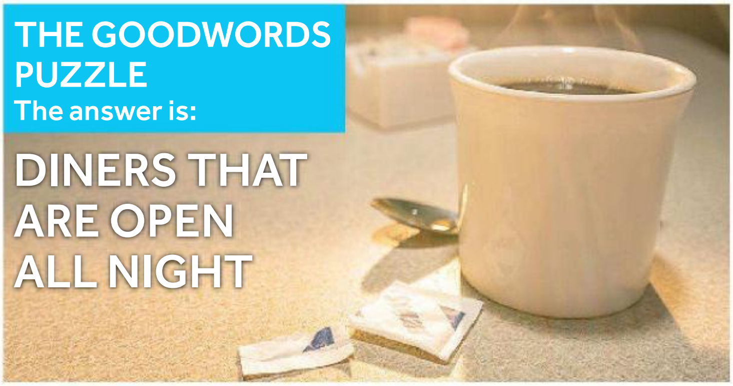
81	76	75	54	53	52	51	50	49
80	77	74	55	44	45	46	47	48
79	78	73	56	43	40	39	38	37
70	71	72	57	42	41	34	35	36
69	68	59	58	13	14	33	32	31
66	67	60	61	12	15	16	17	30
65	64	63	62	11	20	19	18	29
4	3	2	1	10	21	24	25	28
5	6	7	8	9	22	23	26	27

THE GOODWORDS PUZZLE

The answer is:

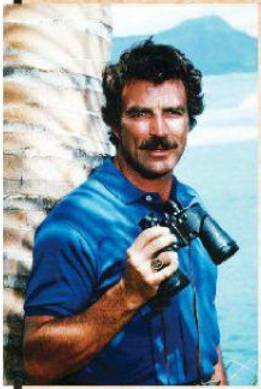


DINERS THAT ARE OPEN ALL NIGHT

ISTOCK (2)

INDIANA JONES QUIZ ANSWERS (FROM PAGES 8-9)

1. **A. Tom Selleck was offered the role of Indy.** The *Magnum, P.I.* star could not get out of his TV show contract, so had to pass on the opportunity. You can see a screen test with Selleck as Indiana Jones and Sean Young as Marion Ravenwood **HERE.**



2. **A. Barbra Streisand and B. Carrie Fisher.** The stars were co-conspirators in the making of a "blooper" scene in *Temple of Doom*. It was all planned by practical joker Steven Spielberg. During a scene when Indiana Jones is tied up, the helpless Harrison Ford is first fake-whipped by Streisand dressed as a dominatrix and then kissed by Carrie Fisher (as Princess Leia) who claims she's there to rescue him.

3. **B. Indy's fedora was sold for $520,000.** The "globally recognized cinematic treasure" worn by Indiana Jones in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* was made of rabbit felt by costume designer Deborah Nadoolman Landis. To age it, the production team sat on it, twisted it and treated it with bleach and dust.

4. **B. "LOVE" was written on the right eyelid and "YOU" was written on the left eyelid by a female archaeology student admirer.**

5. **C. A priceless Ming vase** is what Indy's father, **played by Sean Connery in *The Last Crusade*,** bops him over the head with. He is more worried about the condition of the vase than about Indy's head. He then discovers it's a fake.

6. **C. Young Indy fell into a box of circus snakes.** After foreshadowing about his hatred for/fear of snakes in earlier films, we find out the cause in *The Last Crusade* when Indy is shown falling into a box of snakes on a circus train.

7. **A. Indy's dad made him count to 20 in Greek.**

8. **C. Ford and Connery are not wearing pants.** Apparently, it was extremely hot on the Zeppelin set and first Connery, then Ford, decided to drop their drawers in an effort to stay cool.

9. **A.** *Indiana Jones* creator George Lucas had an Alaskan malamute named Indiana, and the idea may have come from him. Young Henry Jones did not like being called "Junior" and chose to share the same name as his dog.

10. **B. California.** The motorcycle chase was filmed at Mt. Tamalpais State Park in Marin County.

11. **C. Dan Aykroyd.** The *Ghostbusters'* alum who had been in Spielberg's film *1941* plays a British officer at Nang Tao Airport in Shanghai who guides Indy, Short Round and Willie to their plane.

12. **B. *Animal House*. Karen Allen** made her film debut in the raucous frat-house movie when she was 26. *Raiders of the Lost Ark* was her second major movie.

13. **A. Ke Huy Quan**, who played Short Round in *Temple of Doom* would go on to win a Best Supporting Actor Oscar in 2023 for his role in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*.

14. **A. *Raiders of the Lost Ark* rolling boulder.** The 1980 movie showed how longer action scenes could keep moviegoers' interest and really raise the excitement level. That was a very heavy fiberglass boulder chasing Indiana Jones and Harrison Ford did the stunt himself—10 times.

15. **A. Rats.** For *The Last Crusade*, the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company gave Paramount Pictures the first "thousand-rat insurance policy." The policy would have paid off if the production had lost more than 1,000 of its rodents. Earlier in the film's development a female lead bowed out because of a fear of rats and special rats were bred to be disease resistant.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SILVER SCREEN COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES; UNIVERSAL/EVERETT; MIKE COPPOLA/GETTY IMAGES; FILMPUBLICITYARCHIVE/UNITED ARCHIVES VIA GETTY IMAGES; LUCASFILM/SUNSET BOULEVARD/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES

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